



Chairman
Ed Lynch

TOWN OF LEDYARD

Water Pollution Control Authority

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

7:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member Monir Twefik
Board Member Sharon Wadecki
Board Member Terry Jones
Board Member Stanley Juber
Board Member Edmond Lynch
Excused Alternate Member Tony Capon
Non-voting Alternate Member James A. Ball
Alternate Member Jeremy Norris

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

1. Residents and Property owners (1 Rosemarie Court).

Cindy Sturgis of 1 Rosemarie Court was present.

Ms. Sturgis read the following timeline/statement she wrote for the Authority:

I contacted the Town of Ledyard on November 4, 2022 for trash and water service. On Monday November 7, 2022 WPCA techs arrived to install a new meter and turned service on. They indicated that the meter was not below the frost line and returned on November 21, 2022 to lower the meter.

My water consumption from 11-7-22 thru 11-21-22 was normal. From 11-21-22 after lowering the meter, increased pressure likely caused multiple leaks.

I had no knowledge of nor the extent of the excessive water until 12-12-2022 when a WPCA tech came to tell me that I was using an excessive amount of water. WPCA had knowledge of this

situation but did not inform me for 21 days. No data log was ever supplied to me.

WPCA was in the position to detect an excessive use due to a leak and that a new meter would likely allow greater output pressure with the potential result of a break.

WPCA was in the best position to know that a drain storm system proximate to the downstream water line, would likely capture the leaking water bringing it back into the system. This situation deprived me of detecting a leak, as there was no pooling, no puddling, no surface indication of a leak.

Chairman Lynch asked Ms. Sturgis if there was a pressure test performed after the meter was lowered, she replied no.

Chairman Lynch asked Ms. Sturgis if she was asked to turn the water off:

Ms. Sturgis answered that on December 12, 2022, she was told she had a leak, the technician walked the entire property and found no indication of a leak. He then said he would perform a meter test. He came back on the 13th to put a data logger on the meter to start the 24 hour test. On 12-14-22, the technician came back to report that the meter was working properly. On 12-15-22, Ms. Sturgis had her contractor cut a hole in her deck to check the water line for leaks. Although he found two small leaks he found no pooling. He repaired the holes which held for 3-4 days before new holes appeared which he also repaired. Chairman Lynch said that it should have been pressure tested from the meter to the house and all of the devices in the house, to do this everything has to be shut off. Because of the leak Ms. Sturgis had the water shut off for 19 days starting on December 23, 2022. During this time she contacted five different plumbers.

Chairman Lynch asked how many total gallons she estimated were leaking. Ms. Sturgis replied between 340-390 gallons an hour.

Mr. Jones said he would like to know from the GU representative if it's standard practice to perform a pressure test on abandoned properties. Chairman Lynch said no, it's not a standard practice but he would like to update policies to make it a standard procedure to perform leak tests when installing water meters on abandoned properties. He added in this particular case it would not have solved the problem because the leak didn't appear until after the meter was lowered.

Mr. Jones asked Ms. Sturgis if she thought the water pressure was low. She answered yes, she told at least four technicians about the low pressure, they all checked for leaks but found nothing.

Chairman Lynch said he needs to discuss the situation further with Groton Utilities. Mr. Ball said the questions for GU is what was the process/steps when connecting the meter to the old line and was there a pressure test performed? Mr. Ball suggested comparing the GU timeline to Ms. Sturgis's timeline then discussing it further during next month's meeting.

Chairman Lynch thanked Ms. Sturgis and took a copy of her timeline/statement to attach to the meeting minute's record.

RESULT: CONTINUE

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2023 as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Twefik Wadecki Jones Juber Lynch

EXCUSED 1 Capon

VII. COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Operations Report.

Report format change request

Mr. Jones said he would like to ask Groton Utilities to have next month's report cover six weeks after which the reports could run from the 15th of the month to the 15th of the following month in order to have the data more current for the WPCA meetings. Chairman Lynch said he would like Groton Utilities present to discuss this. The operation report request will be brought up during the May meeting.

RESULT: CONTINUE

2. Service Correspondence.

Chairman Lynch said Tina Daniels, GU Customer Service General Manager communicated to him that she is still working on the price quote for switching over to the Groton Utilities billing system. In addition, Ms. Daniels said that payment arrangements have been made for seven of the nine delinquent customers. Ms. Daniels asked Chairman Lynch if GU could start non-payment interruptions, he replied yes. Ms. Wadecki asked if this would affect Ms. Sturgis, Chairman Lynch said no, because she has made payment arrangements.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

The receivables are high.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

A spare board for the decanter system was installed in January. A spare board had to be ordered which was put under the contingency budget line item.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

New London County Septic begin preliminary work on the Smith & Loveless pump station installation on 4-27-23. The main work commences May 1st. The screen plant will be in bypass mode for two days. The flow will be manually pumped, and the screen will be manually cleaned during this work. Smith & Loveless will perform startup on May 3-4.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. CT Communities Challenge Grant Program.

Mr. Norris said he reviewed the application process for the CT Communities Challenge Grant Program for both the sewer extension project and for a water main on Baldwin Hill Road, he said that the time line is too short to apply before the May 19, 2023 deadline. He added that price quotes and detailed plans need to be submitted as well. Ms. Wadecki asked if the grant is available twice a year, Chairman Lynch confirmed that the grant is open twice a year for applications. Ms. Wadecki said the WPCA should put a plan together to apply for the next grant occurring in Fall 2023. Chairman Lynch said in the past the WPCA hired Weston & Samson to put together grants. Mr. Ball asked what specifically the grant would be for. Chairman Lynch answered one idea is the extension of the water line on Baldwin Hill Road. The other grant idea is the possibility of adding a trail along an existing utility easement on Gallup Hill Road as the route for the larger sewer line, which is planned as Phase III of the sewer line extension project using ARPA funds. If the utility easement can be used for the new line, the existing line under Gallup Hill Road can be abandoned, and the road won't need to be excavated. Ms. Wadecki thought both ideas were good and said the Authority should decide which one to apply for first, then apply for the other project at a later date. The Authority agreed that Baldwin Hill Road should be applied for first.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Rules and Regulation review and possible changes.

Chairman Lynch said the policy should emphasize that the customer is responsible for paying for leaks but the process will be that Groton Utilities will perform meter reads/calibration. If a leak is detected then no discussion of forgiveness will take place until after the WPCA receives proof that the leak has been fixed. There will need to be other policy updates as well. Mr. Jones will write a draft policy manual for the Authority to review.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Ledyard Center Trail and Sewer Line Project status proceeding to a spring construction start continued.

Chairman Lynch met with Groton Utilities, Steve Masalin - Director of Public Works and Weston & Sampson. The major concern was the hydrants and the curb stops. If a curb stop was dug up the entire water tank would be drained, as no shut offs were installed. Groton Utilities

will be hired to supervise the curb stops and moving of the hydrants. Chairman Lynch said the WPCA will receive a quote from GU on their supervision effort. Groton Utilities will give a final review and sign off on the curb stops and where the hydrants will be placed.

No decision was made on Habitat for Humanity's addition of stubs and mains on Colby Drive.

A few things such as hydrant placements still need to be addressed.

Spring construction is still expected.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. 9 Marlene Drive continued.

Update:

Ms. Daniels presented a rate structure for 9 Marlene Drive using a few different billing options. She put the lowest option (\$1616.69) in the billing invoice which was sent to the resident on March 31, 2023.

5. DEEP CWF FY24/25 call for projects.

As discussed in Old Business #1 the WPCA will not apply for this round of applications due on May 19, 2023. The Authority will plan to apply in fall 2023.

6. Any Other Old Business to come before the Authority.

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. DPH Sanitary Survey.

Groton Utilities is late in submitting the form and therefore the WPCA received a warning letter from the DPH. Mr. Jones asked what the difference is between the two accounts. Chairman Lynch replied one is for Route 117 and the other is for Route 12. GU is presently working on the requests.

**2. Any Other New Business to come before the Authority.
Inactivate the Booster Chlorination Treatment Plant.**

Inactivate the Booster Chlorination Treatment Plant -

Project description: The Gales Ferry Chemical Building is located on the Groton/Gales Ferry border between 1320 Route 12 (Groton) and 1434 Route 12 (Gales Ferry). Located within the structure there is a sodium hypochlorite treatment system for boosting chlorination. That system is completely mothballed and would need extensive rehabilitation if it was desired to put it back in service. Due to the nature of the distribution system, it would be undesirable to operate this treatment system, because it would increase the THM formation within the system, for this reason, we are applying to inactivate this treatment system for the LWPCA Gales Ferry Water System.

DPH and GU recommended inactivating the booster chlorination treatment system on Route 12; because it is no longer used or needed, and the WPCA agreed that it could be abandoned. It was originally used to sanitize water in the Route 12 main, but with the addition of the Holmberg tank and the regional interconnection crossing under the Thames River, there is enough water moving that it does not stagnate or require additional chlorine.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:33 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Edmond Lynch

AYE 5 Twefik Wadecki Jones Juber Lynch

EXCUSED 1 Capon

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.