



Chairman
Ed Lynch

TOWN OF LEDYARD

Water Pollution Control Authority

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch at 6:54 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member Sharon Wadecki
Board Member Stanley Juber
Board Member Edmond Lynch
Alternate Member James A. Ball
Alternate Member Jeremy Norris

Excused Board Member Monir Tewfik

Non-voting Board Member Terry Jones
Alternate Member Tony Capon

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Jim Ball was appointed as a voting member for Monir Tewfik.

Jeremy Norris was appointed as a voting member for Terry Jones. Terry Jones attended the meeting late and did not vote during the meeting.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

None.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2024, as written.

Mr. Jones was late and was not present for this vote.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 4 Juber Lynch Ball Norris

EXCUSED 1 Tewfik

ABSTAIN 1 Wadecki

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Operations Report.

Chairman Lynch attended a Groton Utilities meeting. The DPH has not yet made any judgement on whether the WPCA needs to dig up the entire water system to determine those places where lead pipes may exist. A report of what lead surveys have been documented and what have not been documented needs to be submitted to the DPH by October 2024. After the submission of this report the DPH will make a ruling. The budget impact of their decision will not have an effect on this year's budget.

Distribution system microbiological and physical analysis sampling and testing was completed in accordance with DPH requirements. All results were within normal limits. Lead and copper values are below action levels. Groton Utilities continues to monitor THMs. The Authority is still awaiting the results of the inspection of the Holmberg Tank. Annual cross connection inspections will begin in March. Chairman Lynch noted that letters were sent by GU to two customers whose water tested high for lead. The letters outlined the procedures the customers should use to collect new water samples for testing. Chairman Lynch will be meeting with Groton Utilities to discuss the lead issues further.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.

None.

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

There was nothing remarkable about the aged report. Month to month variations were normal.

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

There was nothing remarkable about either report.

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

Mr. Banks reported that the floats need to be positioned better at the Smith & Loveless Pump Station. Low level alarm keeps coming in as influent flow spills on top of the L.W. float. Low wet alarm is disabled for now. Waiting for better weather for installation to begin.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6. Pending Bill 149 -

“An act concerning foreclosure, assignments and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer assessments and other fees and charges”.

Chairman Lynch gave a quick summary of Bill 149, specifically what charges Water Authorities can collect and pointed out that interest can be assessed on unpaid bills.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**1. Review of Trail/Sewer line bids continued.**

Chairman Lynch attended a preconstruction meeting and reported that tree cutting on the trail/sewer will start on March 1. Construction on the sewer line will start April 1. Ms. Wadecki asked which kind of pipe they would be installing. Chairman Lynch answered that the 5" PVC pipes which the WPCA requested in the bid package. Mr. Juber said the project of putting in a pump station where the line terminates could probably be put in as a change order. Chairman Lynch agreed. Regarding Phase III, Weston & Sampson wants to put an odor control system in the existing pump station. Chairman Lynch said the Authority needs to decide if the unused pumps should be pulled out and sold or left alone since they are not in the way of the potential odor control system. The Commissioners agreed that the pumps should be sold.

The sewer line construction around Ledyard High School will not start until school is out for the summer.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Discussion on Gales Ferry Intermodal, Inc, 1761 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT continued. Application has been pulled from consideration.

The application has been withdrawn. Chairman Lynch said Groton Utilities gave a quote of \$24,000 to put a meter on the Dow Chemical hydrant line. The Commissioners agreed that the line needs to have a meter.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Holmberg Tank Reservoir 2024 Inspection Report.

The Cortech analysis has been completed. There were several recommendations.

There was a question on piping. It read "a combination inlet and outlet pipe tree runs horizontally across the floor of the tank. The tank fills through rubber duck bills and drains through lower valves. Due to the use of stainless-steel screens over the outlet valves galvanic corrosion can be observed forming along the length of the piping". The evaluation doesn't state what to use in place of stainless steel. Chairman Lynch will ask Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations for clarification.

ACTION ITEM: Find out what material should be used in place of stainless steel for the screens over the outlet valves.

ACTION ITEM: Get estimates from Groton Utilities on the cost of implementing the recommendations in the Cortech analysis.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Lead Pipe Review -

Chairman Lynch is attending a meeting with Groton Utilities regarding the mandated lead pipe review by the Connecticut Department of Health.

This is an unbudgeted mandate.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. WPCA Appointments.

Mr. Capon spoke with Roxanne Mayer, Administrative Assistant to the Town Council and found out that ordinance would need to be changed to stagger the appointments. It was advised to leave the term expiration as it is.

RESULT: COMPLETED

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

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2024-2025 Budget.

*Tabled from the January 23, 2024 meeting.

The water budget balance sheet shows a deficit of approximately \$750,000. However, about \$450,000 of this amount is for assets that were on the books but no longer exist. This is a one-time write-off that does not affect the authority's cash or asset positions. There is also about \$310,000 in depreciation expenses. It is not a cash expense but still decreases the net position.

The commercial rate needs evaluation. Mr. Ball stated that the Commercial billing is pretty much a flat rate that starts at a very high level, perhaps what needs to be evaluated is the line (2" vs. 5/8"). Ms. Wadecki added that the problem lays in the high minimum commercial rate and maybe that rate needs revisiting.

Mr. Norris asked what CNR stands for. Ms. Wadecki answered Capital non-recurring, which is an account used for major purchases needed in the future.

Chairman Lynch was recently informed by GU that there will be a five percent increase in water costs from Groton Utilities starting on October 1, 2024. Therefore, the authority will recommend a five percent rate increase for the next budget. The total increase will be \$54,604.84. Contingency will increase \$35,476.44. Water usage charge will increase \$19,128.40.

Chairman Lynch reported that he will present the WPCA's budget recommendation to the Finance Committee Budget Work Session meeting on March 11, 2024.

Motion to APPROVE a Fiscal Year 2024/2025 water budget of \$1,517,183.62 and a five percent water rate increase.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Wadecki Juber Lynch Ball Norris

EXCUSED 1 Tewfik

Chairman Lynch will recommend a water budget of \$1,517,183.62. He will also recommend a five percent water rate increase during the Finance Committee Budget Work Session meeting.

The sewer budget will not change.

Motion to APPROVE a Fiscal Year 2024/2025 sewer budget of \$671,749.34.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Wadecki Juber Lynch Ball Norris

EXCUSED 1 Tewfik

2. Any Other New Business to come before the Authority.

Mr. Ball asked Chairman Lynch if he could get a list of meter sizes for all the water accounts.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Lynch will contact Tina Daniels, Groton Utilities Customer Service General Manager regarding obtaining this list.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:12 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Wadecki Juber Lynch Ball Norris

EXCUSED 1 Tewfik

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