



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance:
Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations.
Dawn Brown, WTP Lab Technician and Ledyard resident.
Steve Masalin, Public Works Director.

III. APPOINTMENTS OF ALTERNATES

Mr. Ball was appointed as a voting member in Ms. Wadecki's absence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Paul Illiano, 3 Doyle Road, Waterford, owner of Valentino's building and the house next door to it was present to inquire if there was any new sewer line information. Mr. Ball said that there is progress being made. Mr. Illiano said it was no problem for him to attend each WPCA meeting for an update.

John Hardy, 6 Harbor View Terrace, Stonington. He is investigating the property at 1663 Center Groton Rd in Ledyard. Prior to the meeting he contacted Christina Hostetler, Town Hall Assistant to say he will attend the June meeting. His email was forwarded to Chairman Lynch prior to the meeting.

Email from John Hardy dated June 23, 2024;

I am seeking to sit with the WPCA committee to discuss a well exemption permit for the property. I am investigating building a single family home on this approved building lot. The water system that services the lot is in Center Groton Rd. I had previously contacted Groton Utilities which is the contracted operator for the system. I was told by Mike Weber of Groton utilities and subsequently received a document not recommending an exemption. The reason I am requesting an exemption is the cost and feasibility of connection to the water system. The home site is approximately 500-550 ft from the water main. The driveway that will service the lot crosses the buffer area for a wetland and is to be constructed with minimal disturbance to the area, per the town planning notes in the record for the lot. The water main to be connected to is across Center Groton Rd and there is no water service to the lot. Constructing the water service to the home would require tapping the main, digging up and laying a line across the state highway, milling and repaving the state highway, digging a trench and laying a line adjacent to a sensitive wetland, along with the associated costs of traffic control, paving, permitting, bonding, assessments etc. All of these factors make it prohibitive to construct. I have included the approved site plan for the subdivision of the lot, Wetland notes on initial approval of the lot, the proposed site plan for the home to be constructed, the application returned from Groton Utilities, and two estimates for the installation of the water line. Additionally there are several properties which abut the lot which are serviced by private wells and not connected to the municipal water system, and am wondering if this sets a precedent which allows the well exemption to be recommended.

Mr. Hardy stated that 1663 Center Groton Rd in Ledyard is a rear lot, with a water main across the street. He filled out a well exception application and sent it to Groton Utilities. The exception was not recommended by GU. Chairman Lynch explained the process to Mr. Hardy. He said the first step is to go to Ledge Light Health District. LLHD will put in their information which will be sent to the WPCA. Chairman Lynch explained the Town ordinance which states if the property is within 1000 feet of an existing water main, a waiver would need to be completed. He added that it is rather difficult to obtain a waiver because DPH is concerned with one question "can water be provided?". The DPH does not accept financial hardship as a reason for an exception. Chairman Lynch said that he will provide the mitigating circumstances to DPH but ultimately, it's their decision not the WPCAs to approve the well exception. Mr. Hardy will send his application to the WPCA, Chairman Lynch will add his comments and forward it to DPH. Mr. Hardy thanked the WPCA for their help.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Stanley Juber

SECONDER: Terry Jones

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**1. Operations Report.**

Chairman Lynch said the DPH has asked over the years for resident volunteers to allow utility companies to test their water. Participation is on volunteer basis only, not mandatory. Groton Utilities has recommended giving customers an incentive to participate.

Chairman Lynch asked Dawn Brown WTP Lab technician from City of Groton if more than 40 samples are taken in Groton. She answered that 60 are taken in Groton, 40 in Ledyard and 20 in Gales Ferry, every six months.

All distribution samples met DPH standards. Results of monthly microbiological and physical analyses were submitted to DPH. Monthly testing was completed. Work is continuing to reduce THMs in the Gales Ferry and Ledyard Center systems. Routine system maintenance and repairs were undertaken. The 2023 CCR for Ledyard and Gales Ferry will be completed by the June 30th deadline. Ms. Brown said that they are starting to experience burnout with resident sampling. Because of increasing DPH regulations there is often follow up sampling required. Specifically, a few addresses in Gales Ferry and one in Groton have asked GU to stop sampling. The DPH requires GU to have the customer sign documentation stating they no longer want to be tested. One address in Gales Ferry is challenging because they have cut off all communication and GU is unable to get the documentation signed. Ms. Brown said there is a revision to the lead and copper rule coming in October 2024 requiring everyone in the nation to be tested every six months. In Groton customers are offered a \$10.00 incentive each time they sample, and she was hoping to roll out the same incentive in Gales Ferry and Ledyard with the WPCA's permission. The incentive comes in the form of a \$10.00 credit towards their water bill. The testing incentive program would cost the WPCA a total of \$1,200.00. Usually after two cycles of good results the DPH will put the customer on "reduced monitoring". Mr. Norris asked how the sampling is completed. Ms. Brown answered that GU provides the test kit which is a sample bottle and paperwork. The customer takes the sample which must contain water in the household pipes that has sat unused for a minimum of six hours from a faucet used for drinking water. Usually, the customer will take the sample first thing in the morning after the water sits overnight or after the end of a workday. The sample is left out that GU retrieves. DPH has different tiers taken into consideration. Gales Ferry is unique because the address meets the criteria of when the water system was put into place. The tiers are changing based on new DPH rules. Houses built between 1983-1986 are all tier one. Tier two are duplexes built between 1983-1986. Tier three are houses built earlier than 1983. In additional 10% or 20% of schools need to be tested.

Chairman Lynch thanked Ms. Brown for coming and said the Authority will roll out the incentive that she recommended.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.

None.

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

Aged reports show normal monthly variations.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

No comments.

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

The Rotary Drum Thickener control panel, adjustable frequency drives and associated electrical components need to be replaced. This could be part of ARPA funding. Weston & Sampson needs to send the specification plans for the sewer force main extension from LHS to Pennywise in the Ledyard Highlands to Gerber Construction so they can provide a quote for this work. All the costs should be considerably less than the original estimate for this project because the new design consists of installing the new larger pipe over the existing one. Flows are steadily decreasing as the ground water table is decreasing. The WPCA will need a new written agreement with Lakeside Association on pump station operation and maintenance requirements, plus fiscal responsibilities for total pump station and control replacement. The WPCA has been funding 100% of all preventive maintenance and repairs since the station went online in October 2005. The operators can continue to monitor and maintain the station. Lakeside Association needs pay for the complete replacement cost moving forward.

Chairman Lynch explained that the thickener takes all the water out and the sludge is sent to be incinerated. If the unit fails it will cost approximately \$30,000.00 to send the water/solids mixture out for incineration .

Steve Banks, WPCA Supervisor will be retiring in Spring 2025. The search for a Class III operator is beginning.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Lynch will speak with Mayor Fred Allyn III regarding a new Lakeside Association agreement.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Report Review continued.

No comments.

2. Review of Trail/Sewer line continued.

3. Lead Survey Review and Grant Submittal.

Chairman Lynch said the survey will continue but what the exact process will be as mandated by the DPH is still unknown (whether to dig up existing pipe and how much if required). The WPCA has requested a grant for \$455,000 to help cover the costs of digging. If digging is required, it will be coordinated with GU.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

- 4. Motion to APPROVE payment to Weston & Samson invoice #4241190, dated April 8, 2024, in the amount of \$9850.00, for Phase III Sewer line upgrade.

This motion was TABLED during the May 28,2024, meeting.

No discussion.

- 5. Any Other Old Business to come before the Authority.

Discussion and possible vote on the revised quote for Rotary Drum Thickener panel at the Highlands Wastewater WWTF. This is a priority as the equipment is obsolete.

Chairman Lynch added that Oak Hills Controls has been maintaining the system for five years and they are familiar with the software.

Motion to RECOMMEND to the Town Council a bid waiver for the purchase of a Rotary Drum Thickener panel from Oak Hill Controls at a cost of \$29,535.00. Oak Hill Controls is the sole source provider.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Any Other New Business to come before the Authority.

Mr. Juber asked Mr. Duarte if flushing has any environmental impact. He answered that GU uses de-chlorination tablets when flushing which helps although not 100%.

Motion to APPROVE payment of Groton Utilities invoice #0024064, dated May 31, 2024, in the amount of \$1777.31, for Ledyard meter purchases FY2023-2025.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

Motion to APPROVE Groton Utilities invoice #0024066, dated May 31, 2024, in the amount of \$804.14, for lead services.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

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