

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford, CT  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Mark Winik called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:** Chairman Mark Winik, David Steinhardt, Joseph Herget, Mike Tamsin, Robert Imperato

**Also Present:** Superintendent Dan Gregory, Operations Manager Brian Devlin, Town Engineer John Hoefflerle, and Attorney Peter Berdon

**Absent:** Yvette Larreau, and Ryan Sullivan

**Approval of Minutes** – 1/14/2020

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Tamsin. Motion carries unanimously.

**Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**Approval of Vouchers:** No Vouchers

**Sewer Access Application** – 61 East Industrial Road

This property is asking for sewer access. This is an extension opposite Pin Oak Drive. The capacity is there. There will be changes to sewer alignment. The Engineering Department will handle this when they bring in their sewer application and come in for their permit.

A motion was made by Mr. Steinhardt to accept the application and access, subject to Engineering's approval and sewer access agreement, and seconded by Mr. Imperato. Motion carries unanimously.

**Interest Override for Sewer Fee** – 10 Third Ave.

Tax Collector, Roberta Gill-Brooks is present to explain the mix-up of 10 Third Avenue, and 29 Turtle Bay Drive. Both properties have the same first and last name. Both properties paid their sewer use fee, but through confusion it appeared to be a duplicate payment, and payment was reimbursed. Both property owners thought their sewer use bill was paid. Then 10 Third Avenue showed a delinquent sewer use bill, and was charged interest for 4 months, plus a lien fee. This property owner is requesting the interest be waived, since it was not their fault, but the fault of the tax office.

A motion was made to waive the interest by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Imperato. Motion carries unanimously.

**Old Business** – 211 Thimble Islands Road holding tank pumpout request; Septage Receiving Fees; 497 E. Main Street sewer easement subordination agreement.

211 Thimble Islands Road: The owner has a health issue at this time, and cannot be present to further discuss this matter.

A motion was made to table this discussion for 2 months, by Mr. Imperato and seconded by Mr. Tamsin. Motion carries unanimously.

Septage receiving fees: Mr. Gregory is still working on this project.

497 E Main Street sewer easement, subordination agreement

Attorney Berdon presents a revised agreement he was asked to execute the ELUR subordination agreement to the environment.

This is behind All Pets Club. There is contaminated soil that to our knowledge existed prior to this sewer line. We have to comply with environmental regulations. Town Engineer John Hoefflerle will keep a close eye on the pipe. The Property owner will provide sewer easement. Attorney Berdon recommends easement and recommends Board of Selectman and the RTM are presented with this subordination agreement.

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A motion was made by Mr. Imperato to approve the easement and subordination agreement presented by Counsel and seconded by Mr. Tamsin. Motion carries unanimously.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Gregory presents his 2020-2021 Budget for the Board to Review.

Mr. Gregory explains he is planning to retire in July, and Mr. Devlin will take over.

Mr. Gregory would like to stay on part time, until Mr. Devlin has his Class 4

Certification. Mr. Devlin will take this test in July. This is very difficult to pass, and Mr. Winik suggested that the Town provide tutoring for Mr. Devlin to get this certification.

The Board is in agreement that Mr. Gregory can stay on part time.

There was discussion of the entire budget. There was further discussion of delinquent sewer utility funds. This is due to unpaid sewer use fees. The property owners who are delinquent are required to pay interest, and lien fees. Our collection rate is 98%.

Mr. Imperato requested from Tax Collector Gill-Brooks an aging report. Tax Collector Gill-Brooks will provide this report to him.

There was further discussion regarding utility fees going up, and sludge removal going up. Mr. Gregory explains, he had to borrow for from these accounts for a transfer to his Purchase Services account, due to unforeseen emergencies, and has to cover these transfers now.

Our nitrogen credit revenue went up due to Mr. Devlin's great number keeping. It is anticipated the nitrogen credit revenue will go up again this year.

Mr. Gregory discussed submersible pump for numerous pump stations.

Some of these stations go back to the 70's. He would like to get away from propane generators, and go to diesel.

Mr. Gregory explains we need to repair and rebuild electrical to 24 pump stations that will need control panels. Just the electrical portion of the projects will cost \$600,000.00. The money is added each year to capital accounts, and it will be there to cover these costs.

We have a sole source contractor, Control Systems, who has gone over the pump stations that need to have control panel replacements. Some of these pump stations are very old. Going back to the 70's and 80's Branford did not have inspectors. The Engineering Department did not find records from that time.

The 50 pump stations will be assessed, and wait to get estimates for all this work.

The Generator Capital Account has money from previous years to use.

The money has already been approved and appropriated for a septic receiving building. They can even sell tickets to make sure the correct total amount of septic gallons be reported for billing calculations.

Mr. Gregory will present this budget, on Friday, February 14, to First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove, and Finance Director Jim Finch.

The Board suggests that once Mr. Gregory meets this Friday, bring back any changes to the next WPCA Meeting on March 10, and they will vote to approve it at that time.

**Engineer's Report:**

The only thing Engineer Hoefflerle brings forward is some minutes he came across from September 9, 2014, stating when the policy for reimbursement of sewer use fees went into effect. The vote at that time stated that they would only reimburse for 3 years.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Imperato, and seconded by Mr. Tamsin at 8:15 P.M.

Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Linke, Clerk