

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Mark Winik called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Roll Call: Chairman Mark Winik, Robert Imperato, David Steinhardt, Joseph Herget, Yvette Larrieu, and Ryan Sullivan

Also present: Superintendent Brian Devlin, Engineer John Hoefflerle, and Attorney Peter Berdon

Absent: Mike Tamsin

Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Imperato to approve the minutes as presented, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

Sewer Access Application – 131 Commercial Pkwy – Vox Church

This property was a former bowling alley, at the end of Commercial Parkway, behind Walmart. Mr. Jim Pretti, Criscuolo Engineering said this property already had a sewer connection. There will be no commercial kitchen. They will bring in their own food for Church functions.

It will be a 500 seat Church. Lower sewer use than the bowling alley. Services are on Sunday's, where the bowling alley was open 7 days a week. There is plenty of capacity flow. Easements will be granted, and filed in land records. Another sewer connection is on the lot, and will grant another easement on the property.

The Church has multiple locations, and broadcasts from one location and goes virtually.

A motion was made by Mr. Steinhardt to allow Vox Church, Inc. to connect to sewer lines, and seconded by Mr. Herget. Motion carries unanimously.

Sewer Use Fee Adjustments – 175 Brushy Plain Rd. – Squire Hill Apts.

Mr. Hoefflerle explains we received a letter from the manager of these apartments stating they have been paying sewer use fees for 75 units, when there are only 72 units. He is requesting a refund of the (3) units from the 3 previous years. The total refund will be \$1,170.00

A motion was made by Mr. Steinhardt to grant a refund for 3 previous years, and reduce the units from 75 to 72 on assessment, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

Correspondence – 15 & 18-19 Etzel Road Easement Release

Mr. Hoefflerle stated we received a letter from the executrix for her parents, who own both properties.

The Sewer Authority wanted to bring a sewer main there. Sewers are built in the area and there is no longer a need for some of the easements. We are recommending those easements be released back to the owner.

A motion was made to release the unused easements on Etzel Rd. by Ms. Larrieu, and seconded by Mr. Imperato. Motion carries unanimously.

Reports:

Superintendents Report

Superintendent Brian Devlin stated the Plant is running fine. We lost a breaker, but had a spare one to repair it.

The Operations Manager position has been filled. Gino Carrano, who has 22 years of experience, will be starting on Monday, October 19, 2020.

Ms. Larrieu was questioning the huge generator at Sunset Beach (Summer Island) running during the power outages.

Mr. Devlin explains that we have a couple of smaller portable generators and we will no longer need a trailer that would be interfering with the Road.

The Maltby Pump Station main breaker malfunctioned. Our electrician will be installing new electrical service the first week of November.

Mr. Imperato asked if there were any problems at the Plant with the long power outages from the recent storms and if the generator took care of it.

Mr. Devlin said that the plant did fine, and we had no bypasses or equipment failures.

Mr. Imperato also asked if there were any communication problems with Fire and Police. Mr. Devlin said he had no problems with communication with Fire or Police, and spoke with First Selectman Cosgrove daily to keep him informed.

Mr. Winik requests exploring the trees that have taken down power lines over the past 5 years. He suggests looking at all Pump Stations, and seeing if there are trees that will need to be trimmed near these stations, then put together a spread sheet to track this information, with Red, being critical, Orange not too bad, and Green being okay.

Ms. Larrieu questioned why Branford beaches are getting bad grades with the numbers going down. Save The Sound started this study, with grant money, which was done at Short Beach in conjunction with the Health Department. It was determined that with wet weather, spikes in bacteria 15% of the time, and in dry weather, 8% of the time.

There was further discussion, that this could be more of a problem with the storm drains, and pollution from storm drains, holding tanks, septic tanks, or animal feces going into the storm drains, and not related to sewers. The Town Clerks Department puts out a note, when residents are renewing their dog licenses, to not throw dog waste in storm drains.

Mr. Imperato suggested we go to BCTV and do a piece on water collection systems, to show the residents what their \$130.00 a year goes towards. He will reach out to Frank Twohill to get this going.

Town Engineer's Report

Town Engineer John Hoefflerle said the Hemlock forcemain job is complete. The new forcemain has been tested, and now they have to do mill work and paving work there.

The Exit 55 project is complete.

The sewer use fees were sent out, and the tax collector's office is currently collecting the money. He will reach out to the Tax Collector for a final amount of money collected.

There is an Interest from residential properties on Parish Farm Road for sewers.

WPCA Attorney's Report

Attorney Peter Berdon said we did enter into a sewer access agreement for 15 units on Todds Hill Road that's been completed, which you have approved a while back, but took the developer a while to get lines ready to sign the agreement. In addition Vigliotti added additional units at 14 Summit, so we had an issue 3 or 4 years ago, where there was some question in terms of interpretation of an existing sewer access agreement. Under the amendment that we did several years ago, they had a right to add additional units and we did a short agreement to clarify the number of units they were adding.

Mr. Imperato asks if there was any further new developments on Pent Road. We had a developer who was interested in coming in. Mr. Berdon has not seen anything there. In terms of some future activity you may see an application for Mariners Way, a condominium development across from the train station. That project is moving forward, and there are a number of already residential approved units there. There is some question there as to what their ability will be to add additional units, above and beyond the existing agreement that they have. That will be coming before you in the next few months.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Larrieu, and seconded by Mr. Sullivan At 7:46 P.M. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Linke, Clerk