

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call: Chairman Mark Winik, Robert Imperato, Joseph Herget, Ryan Sullivan, & David Steinhardt

Also present: Superintendent Brian Devlin, and Attorney Peter Berdon

Absent: Engineer John Hoefflerle, Mike Tamsin, and Yvette Larrieu

Approval of Minutes – October 13th, 2020

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

Approval of Vouchers:

Three vouchers were brought forward from Attorney Berdon totaling \$4,060.25

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to approve the vouchers as presented, and seconded by Mr. Herget. Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule

The calendar was presented for approval for the WPCA Meeting Schedule for 2021.

A motion was made to approve the 2021 WPCA Meeting Schedule by Mr. Imperato and seconded by Mr. Sullivan. Motion carries unanimously.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Devlin states the plant is running well.

There was a forcemain issue at Watch Hill, with few discrepancies.

We are prepping an area at the plant for a container for the belt press materials.

Mr. Devlin has made plans for tree removals at some of our pump stations that pose a risk to our equipment. Harbor Street tree removal was done by our Road Crew.

COVID 19 precautions are being taken. Our workers are wearing masks. We continue to take temperatures daily. With the resurgence, we need to be extra diligent.

Town Engineer's Report

No report due to Mr. Hoefflerle's absence.

WPCA Attorney's Report

Attorney Berdon stated we have two sewer access agreements for prior approved sites. One is at 10 Thompson Street, at the border of Thompson and 139, which was approved a year or so ago. He is in the process of completing that agreement. It involves foreign companies which has caused some complications.

Jennifer was contacted by the owner of 297 East Main Street. This parcel was directly adjacent to the Mill River where there was a fire about 4 or 5 years ago. There is an apartment complex there. This is already an approved site approved by the Commission over a year ago.

They reached out to Jennifer, we reached back to them but have not heard back further. They are looking to break ground. Hopefully those agreements will be ready for Mark to sign probably before Thanksgiving break.

The board congratulates Attorney Berdon on his appointment to the Board of Education.

Mr. Berdon suggests that the board may want to consider taking a look at the sewer access fees that do get charged for new properties coming on line. Currently the way the regulations read, and this will require RTM action as well, is the sewer access fee is charged at the district rate, if the property is in the district, or \$6,000.00, whichever is less. There has also been issues in defining residential vs. commercial. Started to take a look at this a while back. You may want to consider whether or not you want to make a recommendation to the RTM to level the playing field in terms of what the access fee is going to be. By example, the one at 10 Thompson Street is going to be \$600.00 a unit, vs the one at East Main St. that is going to be at \$6,000.00 a unit because it's outside of a district. It seems there should be some equity. I realize the neighboring properties on 139 paid that access fee of \$600.00, decades ago.

There is a top value of money, so you may want to think about it. Attorney Berdon will leave it up to their discretion.

Mr. Imperato agrees with this issue, districts \$600, vs. \$6,000.00. With new subdivisions popping up. We should put it on the Agenda for next month.

Mr. Berdon suggested putting a limit on approvals, and approvals should expire if the access charge is not paid in a set period of time. We have had some approvals sitting out there a long time, and someone finally decided to move forward. If the RTM approves the \$6,000.00, you don't want to be committed to that lower fee.

Mr. Winik requests this subject be put on the Agenda for next month, and would like Attorney Berdon to be present for this.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Sullivan At 7:15 P.M. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Linke, Clerk

