

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Water & Sewer Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda – January 4, 2021-- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – 310 Norwich-New London Turnpike

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via GoToMeeting.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Water & Sewer Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via GoToMeeting by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Water & Sewer Commission Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:02 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Anthony Siragusa and Chairman Chuck Longton in chambers and Commissioner Shawn Jinkerson (6:25 PM), Town Councilor May, and Brian Quinn, remotely. Also present was WPCA Chief Operator/Superintendent Derek Albertson and Accountant Clerk Katherine Turker. A quorum was present.

d. Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner May to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission

Superintendent Albertson spoke of a letter sent to residents concerning light industrial regarding sewer use. He said registration is required for it and the responsibility of the State but is nowm

g. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three-minute limit

Chairman Longton asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. There were none.

h. Report from Operations/Administration Division

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for November 2020 as follows:

1.0 Compliance/Process

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

Effluent from the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) met state and federal action levels. Extreme temperature fluctuations (30 degrees) made process control difficult. Per federal permit requirements, seasonal (effluent) disinfection ended on October 31.

A market survey of septic tipping costs was conducted with an average of \$75 per 1,000 gallons. Currently, the WPCA charge of \$55 per 1,000 gallons is 27% below the state average which is considered significant. A three-year average indicates approximately 5 million gallons of septic wastewater is received annually (with an associated revenue of \$250,000). While there are some direct costs attributed to the septage receiving like O & M and labor for attendance, they do not exceed the revenue stream. The intent is to bring the charge up to the current market.

The plant is currently operating at approximately 45% of permitted flow. Approximately 28 lbs/day of Total Nitrogen (TN) were discharged in the treated effluent--well below the CTDEEP WPCF general permit limit (118 lbs/day). The WPCF earned approximately \$22,000 in Nitrogen Credits during calendar year 2019 via the *Nitrogen Credit Program*. The Nitrogen Advisory Board made its annual request for data associated with cost for nitrogen removal at the WPCF. The data is due before December 15 and includes such costs for chemicals, electricity, training and O & M for equipment deemed necessary to create the environment for denitrification in the wastewater

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effluent. As such, a three-year average of Nitrogen influent and effluent removal efficiencies was completed which showed very good removal efficiencies.

Effective waste sludge thickening (5% solids) was observed and will result in lower trucking (hauling for disposal) costs for this fiscal year. A recent evaluation of FY 2020 sludge handling/disposal indicated a total of 1,820 waste tons generated with an average of approximately 300,000 pounds per month which is an improvement over last year. As indicated, mercury was discovered in a September 2020 sludge sample. Based on additional sampling/analysis, no further detections were found. A lower laboratory detection limit has been requested to further support a lack of mercury in the thickened sludge. Dental offices are the single largest source of mercury at sewage treatment. Dental offices currently use some type of basic filtration system to reduce the amount of mercury solids passing into the sewer system. One of the sources of mercury is amalgams used in the past for dental implants. Letters were sent to six Town dentists with BMPs to ensure no incidental releases.

1.2 Water Supply

The water supply (WS) met required standards. The October fire in Town demonstrated a pressure issue within the Cradle Hill area supply lines due to topography. Future consideration of a remedy (i.e., relief valve) should be considered.

1.3 Health Crisis

Experts reported a rise in COVID-19 cases. Owing to the high degree of infectivity (through the primary transmission route-respiratory tract) the virus continues to spread. Connecticut saw a large spike in coronavirus-related hospitalization in November. The Superintendent is monitoring available health data to be informed on the local status of SARS-CoV-2 infections.

1.4 Weather

Tropical Storm Eta brought some precipitation to the area, but no problems were encountered due to the event. The record-setting hurricane season ends November 30. A high wind event occurred on November 15 with no problems encountered.

According to Connecticut's *Interagency Drought Workgroup* New London County is experiencing moderate drought conditions (D1) which could have some impact water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems. November had a number of significant rainfall events which made some improvements on the drought conditions. Fire danger is currently low and there is no 90-day rainfall deficit.

The November 8 Massachusetts-centered earthquake did not cause damage to the facilities.

2.0 Staff

2.1 Personnel

No reports of employee injury/accidents this month. No significant absenteeism was observed.

None of the current Montville WPCF team has indicated symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for the associated virus. Staff was encouraged to test at the free clinics. Any work activity happens in accordance with local guidelines and adherence to the CDC's social distancing and other directives such as staggering start times, using separate vehicles, disinfecting common areas and establishing strategic handwashing stations (near restrooms at outdoor events and the entrances to buildings and garages).

All first aid equipment (including the AED) and supplies were inventoried. The battery was changed on the automated electronic defibrillator on November 6.

The *New York Rural Water Association* has requested that the Superintendent conduct a presentation on the Sewer Easement Improvements Project at their upcoming May 2021 conference- originally the presentation was to occur in May 2020.

2.2 Response to Crisis

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The Superintendent completed surveys related to the CTDPH/*Governor's Vaccine Advisory Group* for their (proposed) early vaccinations for critical workers; a (two-dose) vaccine will be distributed by the federal government (potentially in December). The vaccine will be either a licensed vaccine or (early release) authorized-for-use under an *Emergency Use Authorization*. CVS Health and Stop & Shop and Walgreens have entered into a contract with the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) as Vaccination Program Providers.

The CDC has shortened the recommended quarantine time for those exposed to COVID-19 who are not showing symptoms, suggesting seven days for those with a negative test and 10 days for those without one.

The federal government, through the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the CDC, is implementing an ambitious program to rapidly monitor 100 million people across the United States through wastewater surveillance for monitoring the COVID-19 epidemic. The WPCA was invited to be a part of this study. To be eligible, the Superintendent completed an initial survey for the Phase 1 participation. Preliminary results of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) testing in wastewater are starting to be released and demonstrate an “early warning system” for hospitals. Approximately 80% of households are connected to municipal sewers therefore quantitative SARS-CoV-2 measurements in raw wastewater are being measured to provide community infection rates. It is estimated that this type of analysis can give area hospitals a four-day lead time.

OSHA reports that current (wastewater) disinfection techniques have been proven adequate to prevent transmission- extra measures are not needed and operator occupational risk of infection is low. Using proper PPE and standard hygiene practices protects workers from virus exposure; the Superintendent has also provided additional training regarding social distancing and conducts non-intrusive health monitoring (body temperature via a laser thermometer). The EPA reports that the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in U.S. water supplies.

The *Global Resilience Institute* (GRI) is conducting an analysis of Connecticut for opportunities to develop economic recovery and resilience planning in our community following the pandemic. The Superintendent was selected as having the knowledge and expertise to provide additional insight on the current condition of critical infrastructure systems serving Region 4 (Eastern Connecticut) to support their research process. GRI members collaborated on November 13 to discuss immediate concerns regarding CIP due to COVID-19. Generally, most attendees spoke of negative AR impacts and slow (or no) CIP development and potential for the loss of critical staff. Eventually, the group will determine what methods could expedite the flow of federal assistance arising from the pandemic for economic re-development.

2.3 Training

The Superintendent and staff continued to receive online training from EPA, CTDEEP, WEF, AWWA, NEWEA, HACH, and IDEXX. Annual safety training and follow up confined space training occurred remotely for staff due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases. The Superintendent and the Chairman attended a CCM Webinar, *How to Run Legal and Effective Public Meetings* on November 12. The information was specific to running public meetings that are legal and follow appropriate process (Robert's Rules of Order). CTDOT commercial driving license (CDL) practical testing has been re-opened. Tentatively, two operators will complete testing at the Willimantic CTDMV facility on December 30.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF

As indicated, an assessment of the SCADA telematics (the technology of sending, receiving and storing information using telecommunication devices) to control remote objects is being made within the sewer and water systems, including the WPCF. The first step is to determine which data is best measured and managed with an emphasis on minimization. From utilization to fuel usage, machine hours and maintenance scheduling, there are many ways telematics data can be used to drive cost savings and efficiency.

3.2 Collection System

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All pump stations were inspected during the month FOG pumping, if required. The CTDOT notified the Superintendent of proposed resurfacing on State roads within the Town; however, no concern was noted for existing utilities.

As part of the FY 2021 CIP, we will be upgrading SCADA and motor controls at the Pequot and Hillcrest Pump Stations. Woodard & Curran personnel (WPCA Engineer) were met on November 20 to define the scope of the upgrade.

3.3 Water Supply

The CTDPH *Sanitary Survey* was submitted in October and a formal discussion was held with Austin McMann, CTDPH Sanitary Engineer on November 5, 2020. No concerns were identified. As part of the FY 2021 CIP, we will be upgrading SCADA and motor controls at the Peter Road pump station. Woodard & Curran personnel (WPCA Engineer) were met on November 20 to define the scope of the upgrade. A water line was repaired on November 20 at 620 Route 32 (dental office). Routine inspections of the former Roc-Ten property (and current demolition activities) have occurred. The demolition team is using Town water as a dust suppressant. The supply is metered for eventual billing.

4.0 Projects

4.1 General

The National League of Cities reports that 65% of municipalities have paused upgrades to infrastructure due to lack of funding and/or failure of contractors to delivery work with projected timelines. The AWWA's *State of the Water Industry Report* a significant decrease in funding or delivery and timely deliveries for capital projects were a major concern. Please see the engineering summary table for information about WPCA projects. Project initiation has been delayed due to the pandemic with a pause on the grit chamber, SBR-4 diffuser replacement, and the plant water recycling enhancement. Regarding the proposed grit chamber, project documents have been submitted to the CTDEEP for review which is required prior to bidding with the state funding (grant) involved on the project. Factory performance testing was completed on the new pumps for the plant water recycling project with installation slated for December.

Biosafe Systems completed the test run of *GC Liquid Oxidizer Treatment* (PAA solution injection to prevent the formation of hydrogen sulfide and provide some disinfection). The injection test was completed to determine if hydrogen sulfide could be decreased in concrete (wastewater distribution/headworks) structures. In the near future, the d-boxes will be inspected as part of a 2021 FY CIP project. Peracetic acid (PAA) has been used for wastewater for over two decades in Europe, but only recently has been applied for municipal wastewater in the U.S.

Wright-Pierce personnel were met on November 30 to discuss costs for grit removal within the project tank (SBR-4 header/diffuser replacement) which is estimated at \$200,000. FY 2019 CIP monies allotted funds for this proposed work to remedy an existing problem. The remainder is being requested due to the worsening problem. There is a potential a large header breach which would prevent appropriate air delivery resulting in a significant loss of process in that tank (a drop of almost 20% in secondary treatment). Likely this condition would result in poor effluent quality which would not meet regulatory standards.

A review of laboratory equipment (bench devices used for permit compliance) was completed. The DO meter used in the BOD testing was found to be failing. A replacement meter was ordered.

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The effective date for the new *General Permit for Discharges from Miscellaneous Industrial Users* (MIU GP) was October 31, 2020. The expected changes to the MIU GP will require local (Superintendent) authority to regulate and enforce non-significant industrial users (non-SIUs) The CTDEEP and USEPA however will continue to regulate and enforce the SIUs. The WPCA will need to implement the changes to sewer regulations and sewer connection registration and approval procedures. The Superintendent has reviewed commercial development to prepare a sewer user list that would be permitted under the new MIU GP. Approximately 40 commercial properties could be affected with the reissued MIU GP. Additionally, follow-up introductory letters/industrial inspections will be benefit by expanding the Superintendent's knowledge/ control

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of the collection system. Dentist offices are not covered under the MIU GP, but correspondence was sent to the Town’s dentists to ensure BMPs for amalgam disposal and not discharge to the sewers. The recent increase in COVID-19 cases has stalled the inspections due to health concerns so information has been placed on the WPCA website.

4.3 CMOM

Woodard & Curran (Town Engineer) personnel completed work on the Pheasant Run PS and Black Ash PS as part of the CIP (upgrade) project.

The *Montville Sewer Easement Improvements Project* (CIP FY 2020) is now in the Wright-Pierce (Town Engineer) designed (phased) approach to help move the project forward. The proposed Phase I would not require an immediate response to the contesting landowners nor formal permitting. Kobyluck Construction and Seven Oaks Homeowners Association (property owners abutting the project area) were met on November 12 to request temporary wood chip storage. Mr. Alfred Mandler, President of the Seven Oaks Homeowners Association, agreed to the temporary sewer easement and use of the back portion of their property for chipping and temporary storage. Attorney Richard Cody (Town Attorney) was consulted for the temporary easement preparation, property notification and insurance. Wright-Pierce reached out to Eversource to request access to their property near the WPCA project area. The Superintendent/Wright-Pierce have received the botany report; no listed plant species were found.

As part of CMOM investigation, all transition manholes (from 24 pump stations: force main to gravity mains) were inspected and marked. Additionally, all “drop manholes” and manholes whereas fast moving sewer water has been observed (above the scouring velocity of 2 to 10 fps) will be inspected. The (water) pressure release inherent to these situations leads to a high concentration of hydrogen sulfide release and thus the potential for concrete, brick, and rebar degradation. Preliminarily, surface inspections lead to repair of manholes within the sewer collection system earlier this year; asphalt aprons replaced, and risers installed to bring to grade. A review of the existing URS reports (2010 and 2011) as well as staff inspections identified manholes showing significant structural damage and I/I issues and requiring immediate attention. The manholes located at the intersection of Route 32 and Gallivan Lane, as well as those near the Chesterfield and Pheasant Run pump stations are in poor condition and require attention. The manhole’s concrete construction (i.e., chimney, barrel) is in poor condition due to hydrogen sulfide exposure but could be remedied with a grout replacement and epoxy application. Due to the potential for catastrophic failure(s), Wright-Pierce (Town Engineer) was met on November 18 and 20 to plan inspections and assessments (repair versus replace) of all the manholes requiring attention. The work of the staff (preliminary inspections) has focused the work. It is likely that several large manhole rehab projects will be combined under one project; appropriate bidding will be made per purchasing policies. Failure of these structures can lead to many sewer system problems including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and back-ups at various locations in the community, decreased pipe capacity, pump station failures, and ultimately increased operational, maintenance, and repair costs. SSOs can also result in state or EPA regulatory agency enforcement actions.

The purpose of the CCTV inspections (part of the formal CMOM) is to evaluate infiltration and inflow (*I/I*) within the sewer system, determine the extent of corrosion and confirm structural integrity using the new camera/equipment purchased last year. *Inflow* is defined as rainwater that enters the sanitary collection system through direct connections such as manhole covers, catch basins, roof leaders, yard and area drains, basement drains, foundation drains, sump pumps, and cross connections between storm and sanitary collection systems. The rate of inflow will vary depending on the intensity and duration of a rain event, and pre-wetting conditions. *Infiltration* is defined as groundwater entering the sanitary collection system through offset joints and cracks in the sanitary pipes and manholes. The rate of infiltration fluctuates seasonally with the impact of rain events and snowmelt on groundwater levels. Television inspection was recommended in the URS reports for *Subsystem 2* where flow isolated areas exhibited infiltration rates were greatest. The inspection (and subsequent) evaluation is intended to identify sources, quantify *I/I* flows, and recommend repairs to the system. After work is completed, logs are completed to a summary of conditions as well as segments obstructed by grease, roots, and other debris; later a cost-benefit analysis of all identified sources; and a capital improvement plan assessment will be completed based on this information. An inspection (after cleaning) of Connecticut Boulevard was conducted

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on November 6 (1,875 linear feet). Also, inspection and cleaning occurred on November 9 along Dydo Drive (1,458 linear feet). A total of 15,633 linear feet (2.96 miles) of cleaning / CCTV inspection has been completed in calendar year 2020. Mapping of screened areas were updated for CTDEEP inspection.

CAI Technologies was met on November 13 to confirm that they had located some of the original Geographic Information System (GIS) data for the URS mapping (from their successor AECOM). Significant research (with our Planning and Zoning department as well as the consultant) led to good data retrieval. Some data were unfortunately corrupted and will require correction for pump stations, inverted siphons and flow direction arrows; however, the effort will not only make for better WPCA mapping, but better Town mapping. Within the study area collection system, a total of approximately 400,319 lineal feet of sanitary sewer piping and 1,641 structures were located in the GIS database. As-built drawings were used to plot the sewer lines supported by field observations originally by URS. Their GIS consulting will include data development to provide more accurate mapping for both the Town's (water/wastewater) infrastructure.

4.4 Water Supply

As indicated, the Cook Tower work had routine inspection in October and a draft inspection report received on November 4. On November 10 and December 2, planning meetings occurred with the two water operators, the Superintendent and the Town Engineer. Costs were examined with regards to tank replacement or repair. The tank (c. 1999) has a projected 60-year life. Some exterior and interior coating had worn, and the tank surface had rusted in some locations which will require attention. The cost-benefit analysis showed that the GFTS (Glass-Fused-To-Steel) tank replacement would be a viable option.

Woodard & Curran (Town Engineer) was met on November 6 to for the design, construction, startup and acceptance testing of the SCADA system for water stations as part of the approved FY 2021 CIP project. The work will include the panel design, installation, and implementation of the new (improved system) to allow for better monitoring of water flow into the Montville Water Supply.

5.0 Development

Requests for information regarding a large sewer connection were received from Oak River Management, LLC for *The Meadows of Montville* apartment complex along Leffingwell Road. The WPCA Superintendent, Engineer, and Mr. Stephen St. Germain (Property Manager/ Principal) met on November 12 and 19 for planning meetings; the extent of the project is significant in both scope and cost. Preliminary discussion defined scope of work (one or two pump stations and a long force main installation) and potential financial assistance.

Loureiro Engineering Associates (LEA) is investigating the availability of the availability of sewer and water for a proposed 3-building expansion to The Village Apartments (Jerome Avenue). Currently, the residential development has 108 bedrooms which is proposed to be increased with a 303-bedroom expansion. The WPCA engineer will make a decision about the capacity of the existing water and sewer system to support the expansion and fire service.

On November 23 and 30, the Superintendent spoke with contractor about a potential expansion of the Hillcrest community into the proposed Millwood Development. Currently, there is a 3-lot development proposal with connection to sewers.

On November 23, the Superintendent spoke with a developer about residential development along Cook Drive with connection to sewers. In May 2010, the WPCA had approved an extension of the sewer to this area.

The Roc-Ten demolition project appears to be near completion; approximately 600,000 gallons of water were used for dust suppressant.

6.0 Finances

6.1 Accounts Review

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Following the Town Audit, the WPCA financial review of FY 2020 was concluded. Budget sheets and account balances are included. Some adjustments will be made to accommodate for depreciation and other line items addressed in the Town Audit review.

6.2 Budget(s)/Assets

Please see the budget sheets for financial information about the WPCA WS and WPCF. The FY 2021 water and sewer budgets for the WPCA were approved earlier this year.

A 30-day moratorium extension was made for water shut-offs/late fees during the last meeting; the commission would have to approve further extensions. According to the AWWA, 96% of utilities suspended shut offs for non-payment. Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) issued a ruling on September 23 that will extend the enrollment period for the COVID-19 Payment Program for non-residential customers through November 1.

The WPCA asset listing was improved for FY 2020 and will be instrumental in the asset management program.

6.3 Pandemic Response

The executive orders established during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic were set to expire on September 9, 2020; however, the Governor has extended the *Declaration of a Health Emergency* until Feb. 9, 2021. The Governor announced the emergency was placed in response to the pandemic. The declaration authorizes the Governor to order certain actions that will help expedite the response and the potential for reimbursement funding to municipalities.

6.4 Grants

Some current wastewater projects are funded by State funds including two bonds and one grant (CTDEEP \$5 million *Grant-in-Aid for Sewage Treatment Facility Infrastructure Improvements and Upgrades at the Montville WPTF*, approved via March 2014 Town of Montville Resolution No. 2014-25). The bonds were for infrastructure improvements within the plant. The grant money is being used for the new chlorine system, new recycling pumps, and grit removal system.

The 2020 CTDEEP Draft *Integrated Water Quality Report* was prepared to satisfy statutory reporting requirements pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to assess designated uses established by the State's *Water Quality Standards* (CTWQS). Relative to the document, the treatment plant is a point source of discharge and is available for federal funding (grants and low interest loans) for wastewater infrastructure improvement projects. Additional CTDEEP grant monies were applied for via the *Connecticut Clean Water Fund Request to Place Project on Priority List* for monies for constructing a (sewer) collection system asset management plan.

Potential water grant needs were sent to the CTDPH via their *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Eligibility Application*. Specifically, grant monies would help pay for the evaluation and/or replacement or painting of the Cook Tower water storage facility (a FY 2021 CIP project). The CTDPH notified the Superintendent in November that it had reviewed the *Eligibility Application* (EA) submitted for the *Cook Hill Tank Evaluation and Rehabilitation* project under the DWSRF Program, and the proposed project is officially listed for funding. The study, design and construction will be covered by 50% grant and 50% low interest loan (2%, 20-year term) that can be pre-paid at any time. A proposal for engineering for that project was received by the Town Engineer (Wright Pierce) on May 28 and the report was received on November 4. Wright-Pierce engineers were met on November 12 to review the report and cost-benefit analysis. While some rusting was identified, no immediate concerns were identified. Fire Operational tank levels were considered optimal. Previous inspections (for the 590,000-gallon water storage standpipe-tank) were completed by Corr-Tech occurred in 2016 and 2019. On November 12, the CTDPH Drinking Water Section confirmed the Cook Tower Project was eligible for the requested amount of \$776,000 for the design, planning and construction associated with repair/replacement. An article announcing the grant receipt was in *The New London Day* on November 28. A preliminary meeting was held with Raul Tejada, CTDEEP Sanitary Engineer 3 (December 1) to discuss project scope.

FEMA recently announced a new grant program, *Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities* (BRIC), which is now available and is intended to support hazard mitigation projects

with a strong focus on construction projects. The *Flood Mitigation Assistance* (FMA) program is also open. FMA is an existing grant program used for flood mitigation planning, projects, and acquisitions of flood-prone properties. The Superintendent is looking into both for appropriate application(s) as it relates to extreme weather events and/or sea level rise.

6.5 Town Audit

Blum Shapiro (Town Auditor) has completed their investigative work with WPCA staff for their inaugural Town audit.

6.6 Energy

Typically, individual wastewater facilities currently consume about five times more energy than is required to treat their water flow, with most going to inefficient aeration of secondary (biological) treatment tanks. The energy use is expected to increase by up to 20% in the future due to more stringent water quality standards and growing water demand. Reducing energy usage can yield significant environmental, economic, and social benefits for local communities. The Superintendent has reviewed available U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) in the *Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future* (SWIF) program online- an initiative contributed to the development of resources in energy data management, measure evaluation, project financing, and improvement planning. DOE facility partners are predicted to reduce their total energy consumption by more than 8% in three years with innovative and best-practice energy management and planning approaches.

The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power (operating at 460 kW) on June 24. Recent results indicated the fuel cell to be running at or near 100% capacity (11,000 kWh/d) resulting in a large drop in grid power demand.

Superintendent Albertson summarized his monthly report stating fall is a difficult time for process control and said there is concern regarding the temperature swings. He also reported on the receipt of approximately \$22,000 in nitrogen credits from the State for 2019; no Covid incidents at the plant; and a total of 2.96 miles of flushing and CCTV inspections of the sewer system. Commissioner Siragusa asked about the dental offices as a source for mercury at the plant. Superintendent Albertson said they are not covered under his jurisdiction and said he could only check to see if they have a collector or filtration system for it. He also responded to Commissioner Siragusa that a remedy would be sought for the water pressure issue noted for the October fire. Superintendent Albertson also responded that D. Weston had returned to the office. Commissioner Siragusa asked whether the engineers would look at the manholes as cited in his report under Item 4.3. Superintendent Albertson report 3-4 require attention and said it is per the engineers' assessment whether to repair or replace them as they have technologies unknown by the plant crew.

i. Report from Mayor

Mayor McDaniel commented on the positive news from the State concerning the Clean Water Fund and said he has appointed Superintendent Albertson as the Town drought liaison to the State, COG, and Region 4. Superintendent Albertson said he got notification of the same today.

j. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson spoke of the summary table of engineering projects that includes those completed as well as those being worked on over the past three (3) years.

k. Old Business

1. Town Audit

Superintendent Albertson reported accounting procedures are being reviewed but said he has yet to receive feedback from the auditor. Mayor McDaniel added that no information had been received for the Town side either.

l. New Business

1. To consider and act on a cost for septage tipping fees.

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to increase the tipping fees from \$50 per first 1,000 gallons to \$60 per first 1,000 gallons.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

Superintendent Albertson reported on a statewide study he did of 15 different communities regarding the tipping fees that average \$75 per 1,000 gallons. The WPCA only charges \$50 and he wants to raise the fee to \$60 to increase revenues. He also said a septic receiving station requires monitoring that has increased.

SAR-No. 2020-27 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to increase the tipping fees from \$50 per first 1,000 gallons to \$60 per first 1,000 gallons. Motion by Commissioner May; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: Commissioner Jinkerson asked if the rate increase were needed and if it would be a price increase to ratepayers. Superintendent Albertson said some cities set a high rate such as Norwich at \$85 but said the price increase would affect haulers to dump waste. He also said more attention would go to repair and/or replace the 30-year-old station. Commissioner May reported the station was put in during the 1990's and modifications done to it in 2008. He also said the \$60 proposed rate was a good amount as long as haulers are not upset, nor ratepayers be affected. Commissioner Siragusa asked about the 27% increase in septic which Superintendent Albertson said was due to Covid and people being at home. Commissioner May added that in 2008 the Town was an extremely convenient access for haulers and RV users. Mayor McDaniel said more people are at home and said haulers will go where it is easy to access. He also said the proposed rate was competitive and that per the data dump recovery funds need to be captured. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, Quinn, Siragusa. *Opposed*: none. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

2. To consider and act on changes to the 2008 WPCA Purchasing Policy. (**This item was stricken from the Agenda.**)

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to review draft 2020 WPCA Purchasing Policy prepared by the Superintendent to reflect items addressed in the previous forensic audit, FY 2019 Town Audit and FY 2020 Town Audit findings.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2020-28 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to review draft 2020 WPCA Purchasing Policy prepared by the Superintendent to reflect items addressed in the previous forensic audit, FY 2019 Town Audit and FY 2020 Town Audit findings.

3. **This Agenda item was moved to the Water Commission, Item 1, under New Business.**

4. To consider and act on financial assistance to provide sewer extension to Meadows Village Apartments.

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to assist in the costs for planning, engineering, and installation of a sewer extension to include an approximate 3,000-foot force main and one sewer pumping station.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2020-30 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to assist in the costs for planning, engineering, and installation of a sewer extension to Meadows Village to include an approximate 3,000-foot force main and one sewer pumping station. Motion by Commissioner Quinn; seconded by Commissioner May. Discussion: Superintendent Albertson stated he met with an operator of Meadows Village, Stephen St. Germain, concerning the sewer main connection at Fitch Hill Road and also discussed it with the WPCA engineers, reference to the schematic sent to the Commission. S. St. Germain stated there are 18 buildings at the Meadows and each have half

systems installed in 1978 but are currently pumping. He said these systems will need to be replaced and relocated. He also said there is private water with three (3) wells, but he is looking to have the water in a centralized location to connect with the Town sewer system. Superintendent Albertson stated the engineers have confirmed what needs to be done and how the Meadows can be helped and referenced water to location of 1.5 to 1.75 million gallons. Commissioner Jinkerson asked about the cost and planning for the project, specifically do we know the cost. Further, he said the resolution as written implies the WPCA will assist although the cost is unknown. Commissioner May said the matter would go to public hearing and asked who would be paying for the sewer extension and pumping station. Mayor McDaniel said the sewer benefit user typically pays. Commissioner Quinn commented there was no waiver for a residential customer that came before the Commission and Chairman Longton asked if the extension was a private line for one (1) customer and what the ratepayer got from the 1.5 to 1.75 million gallons. Mr. St. Germain spoke to variables that would be used to pay its share of fees/usage such as building out to the property line, grant money; options currently being explored. Chairman Longton spoke to the fiduciary responsibility to the ratepayer; S. St. Germain said the existing system has an 8-inch main and will have connection/usage fees to expand the Town system. Commissioner Siragusa distinguished that the sewer line would be a Town line, not a private one.

Mayor McDaniel stated he had spoken with S. St. Germain prior to coming before the Commission and said it would be premature to take a vote as cost is unknown and the WPCA share is unknown. He also spoke to the issue of ownership of the pump station, the sewer benefit charge as the connection would pass 10-12 homes, and to public interest regarding flooding and health issues. Operator Jon Lilly spoke about the main to be used and its proprietary use. Commissioner Quinn asked about privately owned pump stations; Superintendent Albertson said the WPCA would have input on its design and to make sure it is untreated. He also said he wanted to see the breakeven point as to funds. Commissioner May said the DPH component must be done in addition to preliminary engineering such as the type of system and other things that require answers. Commissioner Siragusa spoke of voting “no” until more details were forthcoming. S. St. Germain explained there are 114 units plus an office and said the \$3,500 connection for each would be \$405,00 plus additional fees usage. He mentioned the Meadows private water company, three (3) wells, and working with DPH to put up a new water building. Commissioner May said the connection fees are distributive and determined by statute but said the plan must be seen to find out if the project can be done. Commissioners Quinn and Chairman Longton stated the fees should be consistent regardless of the size of the customer. There was not vote on this motion.

Motion by Commissioner Quinn; seconded by Commissioner May to withdraw the motion regarding the sewer extension at Meadows Village. Voice vote: 4-1, Commissioner Jinkerson abstained. Motion carried.

Superintendent Albertson concluded he acted in good faith and would continue to work with the company. Mr. St. Germain concluded this was just a starting point and said he would work with the WPCA on the project regarding plans, grants, and funding. He also stated the complex was for low-income individuals stating he worked with Eversource to get affordable heat and hot water, put a freeze on rent for the next year and half; did not charge the tenants for water/sewer—a fee that will not be passed off to the tenants.

5. To consider and act on scheduling 2021 calendar year WPCA Meeting Dates/Times.

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to provide a schedule for formal 2021 meetings with the Town Clerk by January 31, 2021 as stipulated in the CT General Statutes: the first Monday of every month excluding holidays (that will be scheduled on the Thursday of that week). The scheduled meeting dates are as follows: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 8 (Thursday), August 2, September 9

(Thursday), October 4, November 1, and December 6, 2021 to be held in the Town Council Chambers – Town Hall starting at 6:00 PM.
Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2020-31 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to provide a schedule for formal 2021 meetings with the Town Clerk by January 31, 2021 as stipulated in the CT General Statutes: the first Monday of every month excluding holidays (that will be scheduled on the Thursday of that week). The scheduled meeting dates are as follows: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 8 (Thursday), August 2, September 9 (Thursday), October 4, November 1, and December 6, 2021 to be held in the Town Council Chambers – Town Hall starting at 6:00 PM. Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: Commissioner Jinkerson said the schedule did not reference virtual meetings due to Covid. Mayor McDaniel said the schedule still applies to virtual meetings which means you do not have to be present at the Town Hall. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, Quinn, Siragusa. *Opposed*: none. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

6. To consider and act on funding to repair the air dispersion equipment in SBR-4 process tank.

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to approve the approximate \$200,000 funding to complete emergency repairs to the existing aeration plumbing system (i.e., diffusers, headers) within secondary treatment tank SBR-4 consistent with the specific construction plans approved by the WPCA Engineer.
Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2020-31 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the approximate \$200,000 funding to complete emergency repairs to the existing aeration plumbing system (i.e., diffusers, headers) within secondary treatment tank SBR-4 consistent with the specific construction plans approved by the WPCA Engineer. Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson. Superintendent Albertson said \$200,000 was approved for repairs to the system and spoke of additional costs for grit removal that has built up—350 tons, although not hazardous, needs to be removed and disposed. He said there is a breach preventing quality aeration and the system is on the verge of going offline. Commissioner Siragusa asked why it was an emergency with plenty of backup and whether it would go out to bid. Superintendent Albertson said the aim is to bring down one (1) tank a year but said all six (6) tanks need to be working harmoniously. He also said it would be put out to bid. Commissioner Quinn asked if it was typical to approve totals without bids. Superintendent Albertson said the project was discussed with the WPCA engineer and said there was CIP funds ready. Mayor McDaniel said funds must be put in the bank, the project is for a grit removal diffuser replacement, and that the funds are not encumbered. Chairman Longton explained that funds are set aside for a best guess estimate that will be furthered by the bid process. He also said it would be beneficial to see the engineering proposal. Therlin Montgomery, WPCA Engineer, spoke of the bid estimates and said there is currently one foot of grit (333 cubic feet) so the bid may be less or more. Commissioner Quinn asked if the funds were budgeted; Mayor McDaniel said it was not as it came out of capital reserves. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Longton, May, Quinn, Siragusa. *Opposed*: Commissioner Jinkerson. Vote 4-1. Motion carried.

m. Reports/Referral from Planning & Zoning. -- *None*

n. Payment of Bills -- *None*

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson commented on the sanitary survey that was completed in October and said he met with DPH about it but there were no concerns.

b. Old Business – *None*

c. New Business

1. To consider and act on either a repair or a replacement of Cook Tower as summarized in the Wright-Pierce engineering report.

The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolves to select either the renovation of the existing steel tank or the replacement of the existing steel tank with a Glass-Fused-To-Steel tank.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2020-29 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to select either the renovation of the existing steel tank or the replacement of the existing steel tank with a Glass-Fused-To-Steel tank for Cook Tower. Motion by Commissioner May; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson. Discussion: Superintendent Albertson deferred to WPCA engineer Barry Parfitt of Wright-Pierce who prepared the presentation. Commissioner Siragusa asked why there was not a recommendation in the presentation. Engineers Mariusz Jedrychowski and Barry Parfitt of Wright-Pierce gave a presentation specifying project location, the Cook Tank condition, and improvement options as described in the handout to the Commission in its meeting packet. The age and condition of the Cook Tank, its inspection, maintenance needs, and funding for renovation that would be supported by a 50% grant (a maximum of \$500,000) and 50% loan was discussed for the existing tank. The presentation then focused on maintaining the exist tank versus the construction of a new one. Rehabilitation would require high maintenance costs such as repainting every 15-20 years and tank bypass requiring it to be offline for a time, but it would maintain its pressure. The concrete tank was not presented as a replacement option as it was said to not be an attractive option. The glass-fused-two-steel tank (GFS) was said to be one feasible option as a replacement. The tank is made of steel plates infused with specialized glass and been in existence for 70 years. The Mohegan Sun has one that has been in service for 23 years. Also, this tank can be constructed adjacent to the existing tank that can remain in service nor does it need repainting as it has a specialized coating system. The life cycle cost comparison tables for the options herewith discussed do not include grants. To answer the question posed by Commissioner Siragusa concerning a recommendation, the options were discussed in workshops with the Town, and the same information was discussed this evening, as confirmed by J. Lilly.

During questions-and-answers following the presentation, Commissioner Siragusa asked about the demolition fee that was not included in the table; Chairman Longton asked about terms for the loan. M. Jedrychowski said the demolition fee was \$50,000 and loan terms are 20 years at 2.0% with no prepayment penalty. He responded to Chairman Longton that the existing tank has a full life cycle or 60 years as opposed to GTF cycle of 50 years. Commissioner Jinkerson asked if the Town could recoup the cost for steel; M. Jedrychowski said “yes” the steel could be returned. Mayor McDaniel asked if the GFS was not maintained unless damaged. B. Parfitt responded the GFS has a stronger attachment to steel and the bolts are encapsulated inside and outside. Mayor McDaniel also asked about cross supply with Norwich and J. Lilly said it was more of a volume issue for fire flows and some concern if a fire occurred at that end of town. He also inquired how the remaining half million would be paid. M. Jedrychowski said it would be a Town expenditure for water but said the final loan amount would be based on the total project once completed given change orders or negative change orders. He also responded to Chairman Longton that the existing tank would not be out of serve when building the new one. B. Parfitt replied to Commissioner Siragusa that the existing antennas can be put on the new tank and would detect the weight issue of antennas (loads) to the new tank to make sure it can take the load, according to M. Jedrychowski. Commissioner Siragusa then asked again what was the recommendation. J. Lilly said to go with the GFS stating they would not have to run the 1401 booster pump nor have temporary antennas. Commissioner Siragusa said if the Commission approves the GFS it would be recommended to the Town Council for approval. Commissioner May stated per FOI regarding the Town Council

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the presentation would be to renovate or replace and said being in the business (as an engineer) he wants to see the renovation proposal to discern if the existing tank is in good condition and not failing. He also said other tank options were not presented. Commissioner Jinkerson asked if there were other options why were they not presented. M. Jedrychowski said the coatings must be approved and approval from NSF but said he could supply the cost for coatings. Superintendent Albertson commented that the engineers are experienced and said the GFS is the best track to take. He added they would not have gotten the grant without their help and said the GFS gives breathing room for project. Superintendent Albertson said he had spoken with Chris Clark at the Mohegan Sun who said there was no maintenance involved with the GFS. He also said the Wright-Pierce is the WPCA engineers. Commissioner May said the motion is to keep or replace and said as a professional engineer he did not think all options had been given and should be to make a decision although the ones presented were credible. Commissioner Jinkerson said as a 25-year submariner he understood corrosion on metal and said he had done research prior to the meeting and the replacement option seemed reasonable. Commissioner Siragusa said he would abide by the decision of the Commission but said the Town Council may make changes. It was agreed the vote was whether to renovate or replace with a GFS tank. Roll Call vote: *In favor to replace:* Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, Quinn, Siragusa. *Opposed:* none. 5-0. Motion carried.

2. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Longton asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. There were none.

3. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Quinn wished everyone a good holiday. Commissioner Jinkerson remarked that speakers that come before the Commission have a good presentation and to be prepared. Commissioner May remarked that connection fees are set by statute and said reducing them can be challenged by others. He then wished everyone a happy holiday. Mayor McDaniel remarked on the constructive discussions this evening and then wished everyone a safe, happy holiday.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Longton to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Discussion: none. No vote taken. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**