**Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**September 9, 2021-- 6:00 PM**
**Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

## 1. Water and Sewer Commission

**a.** Call to Order
Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

**b.** Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.

**c.** Roll Call
Present were Commissioners Shawn Jinkerson, Anthony Siragusa and Chairman Chuck Longton. Absent were Commissioners Brian Quinn and Town Councilor May. A quorum was present.

WPCA Chief Operator/Superintendent Derek Albertson and Mayor Ronald McDaniel were present.

**d.** Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

**e.** To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2021
Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 3-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**f.** Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission -- *None*

**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/Administrative Report for August 2021 as follows:

### 1.0 Compliance/Process

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility
Effluent (total: 35 mg) from the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) met state and federal action levels. Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent at 45% under the permit limit. An increase (10%) in septic receiving was noted as compared to last year at this time (an increase in revenues). No supply issues have been experienced for chlorine (for disinfection) as reported for other facilities in the state.

Rand-Whitney personnel were met in August to review their increased influent $BOD_5$ loading. Production increases as well as pretreatment challenges have led to a change in their contribution to the WPCF's influent (increases in wastewater strength). For the last two months, the paperboard company's effluent has exceeded their national pretreatment permit limits. Rand-Whitney is planning a modification in their pretreatment to meet their NPDES permit limits. It was confirmed that the facility is using mostly recycle water in their recent (increased) production. A Rand-Whitney representative (Ethan Schmidt, Assistant Utilities Manager) was met on August 19 and 23 to discuss recycled water operations and quality. Analytical results of $BOD_5$ and TSS were reviewed including the results of in-house testing with contracted (outside) laboratory testing. A test of chlorine dosing (followed by residual chlorine analysis) was conducted on August 24. The diversion of a significant amount of the plant effluent to Rand-Whitney has led to lower total effluent flow numbers (approximately 1 mgd).

Waste sludge thickening was improved in August. No mercury has been detected in the sludge (ND<0.5 mg/kg). Quality control issues have been a concern with the TWAS polymer; the vendor has been contacted and will provide a refund on poor product. Jar testing of polymers was conducted in-house on two occasions with follow up polymer batch testing on August 20 and 31 from two suppliers (Atlantic Coast Polymers and Clean Waters). COVID conditions have led to quality control/supply issues throughout the polymer industry. Thickening has become difficult (July 2021 = 4.5% solids and July 2020 = 6.2%). No supply issues have been experienced as reported for other facilities in the state.

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required standards. The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required standards. Chief Operator (Jon Lilly) and Assistant Chief Operator (Kevin Loiler) have been responsive to the needs of the water supply particularly during emergency conditions. August was National Water Quality Month. The recognition was founded in 2005 by the USEPA to promote civic discourse about natural water sources and clean drinking water.

On behalf of the CTDPH (Circular Letter 2021-58), SLR Corporation (a subcontractor for the *Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation*) requested a list of service connections to assist in identifying (private) well served properties for GIS mapping. Low water in the Colorado River's largest reservoir triggered the first-ever federal declaration of a shortage on August 16, a bleak marker of the effects of climate change in the drought-stricken American West and the imperiled future of a critical water source for 40 million people in seven states.

1.3 Health Crisis/Cybersecurity/Spill Reporting/Wipes

The Superintendent is monitoring available health data to be informed on the increase in SARS-CoV-2 infections particularly those associated with new (more contagious) variants. On August 19, Governor Lamont announced a vaccine mandate for state employees with testing options. Per Mayor McDaniel, as of August 23, 2021, all staff and visitors shall be required to wear proper face protection while inside town facilities. New signage was posted at the plant to support compliance and the directive was reviewed with staff. On August 23, the FDA granted full approval to Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for anyone 16 or older. Likely, the staff will require booster vaccinations in the near future. Initial testing has demonstrated that a third dose of the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine improves immunity.

According to the Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup, there are no drought designations currently.

Tropical Storm Henri brought rainfall and strong winds on August 22; no reported issues were noted- in preparation Governor Lamont declared a state of emergency. Approximately 4 inches of rain and 45 mph wind gusts were recorded. Routine maintenance of emergency power (and weekly testing) confirmed storm readiness. The Superintendent met with the CTDEEP following the storm to report that there were no problems experienced. The rule of thumb for influent monitoring (for I/I issues) during a big storm is whether the influent increases to greater than 2Q (two times the typical influent); in this instance, the influent flow was 1.7 Q.

Hurricane Ida brought approximately nine inches of rain to southeastern Connecticut. The resulting I/I overwhelmed the plant to above-design influent flow. The new (passable pumps) were effective at moving water through the plant from the influent wetwell. The old pumps would not have been able to keep up and likely the town would have experience significant backups. The three pumps ran at 100% capacity for five hours. Consequently, only limited treatment was possible. Timely CTDEEP notifications were made for *Right-To-Know* requirements (2-hour/5-day). Influent flow increased to greater than 2Q (two times the typical influent. Due to wastewater treatment facilities being overrun, surface water should be avoided in urban areas such as Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury, Middletown, Meriden, Wallingford, Stamford, Norwalk, Norwich, and the greater New Haven area.

An August 2021 (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report suggests significant weather changes in New England for the coming years (warmer and wetter). The report describes an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms (including major hurricanes) and droughts.

Governor Lamont said building resilience against drenching storms like Hurricane Ida is a priority, but the long-term outlook is bleak without action on climate change. The Governor signed a declaration of civil preparedness emergency in response to the widespread flood damage.

On August 13, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a warning about extremists using COVID related restrictions as a reason to conduct attacks on infrastructure. To assist and inform the WPCF cybersecurity efforts, the CTDEEP shared a *National Security Memorandum* (issued by the White House) announcing formal requirements will be required to prevent third-party intrusion into wastewater treatment plants. The DHS will develop and issue cybersecurity performance goals for baseline security practices to protect public health and safety.

## 2.0 Staff

### 2.1 Personnel

Operational staff are the backbone of the process control and success of the daily operation of the plant. Recent events have challenged the team. Time and time again the team rises to the occasion. Appropriate preparation and attention to detail have kept us out of trouble. I applaud their efforts and consider myself fortunate to work with them daily.

Ray Bigalbal completed his work as Environmental Engineering Associate on August 13. Ray (a Town resident) was well received by staff and made daily contributions. He will continue on at the *University of New Haven* as a senior in their civil engineering program. Ray's professors and department chair have reported that his experience at the WPCF has been rewarding, allowing for an introduction into structural, geographic and information systems. Additionally, they complimented the WPCF staff for sharing their knowledge to enhance Ray's real-world experience.

Staff have identified safety issues during weekly "tail gate" talks. Chlorine fill operations by vendors were reviewed to highlight no-spill measures. The cover for the Rand-Whitney distribution box was replaced because it was failing.

The government reports a looming shortage of qualified labor in the utility field due to the shrinking pool of talent, particularly for utility managers. In Connecticut, 50% of licensed treatment operators will likely retire in the next seven years. Approximately 75% of the advanced operators (Class IV license) are likely to retire in this time period.

### 2.2 Response to Health Crisis

OSHA reports that current (wastewater) disinfection techniques have been proven adequate to prevent transmission of COVID-19- extra measures are not needed and (water/wastewater) operator occupational risk of infection is considered low even with the new variants. The USEPA reports that the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in U.S. drinking water supplies.

The WPCF personnel are following State and Town prescribed guidelines and CDC's directives. An executive order was signed by Governor Lamont on August 5 that provides municipalities the option of requiring masks to be worn in indoor public places within their town and city's borders regardless of the person's vaccination status. All individuals who are 12 years of age or older and live, work, or attend school in Connecticut are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Frequently, the Mayor has provided vaccine clinic information to the staff.

### 2.3 Training

The Superintendent and staff continued to receive training to meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for training credits. Many classes have moved to virtual meetings due to the COVID concerns. Because of the increasing number of COVID cases, individuals attending state or professional training (in-house) will be required to provide either proof of full vaccination for COVID-19 or results of a negative test for COVID-19 obtained no more than 48 hours before.

The Superintendent attended (virtually) the Water Environment Federation (WEF) *Government Affairs Department and the Government Affairs Committee Member Association Subcommittee* update seminar and an Eversource storm preparedness seminar on August 25. The subcommittee summarized legislative and regulatory issues at the federal level. In addition, the Member

Associations report on regional issues and initiatives with a focus on how they interact with their state legislature and regulatory agencies.

Renewal forklift training was conducted onsite on August 31. Bob Fish, Senior Maintenance Mechanic and Jon Lilly, Senior Maintenance Operations Inspector provide incidental training on equipment as required. Without their abilities, the WPCA would have to subcontract much work. Additionally, the training prevents the loss of key institutional knowledge about older equipment and/or procedures.

## 3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF

The influent distribution box is failing due to long-term erosion of concrete and rebar by hydrogen sulfide. An engineering review (FY 2021 CIP) indicated eminent failure without immediate reconditioning. The Superintendent met with the engineers on August 3 (Woodard & Curran) to review the proposed complete replacement. It was decided that replacements with coated tanks would be conducted. The new Rand-Whitney box would include an auto-screen to remove the biocides that collect in the warmer months as well as flow meters. Both boxes would be installed adjacent to the existing distribution boxes. On August 12, representatives of Savoy & Son and Woodard & Curran were met onsite to discuss remedy options for the Rand-Whitney distribution box and the blended flow distribution box (both corroded and likely to fail). A proposal was received on September 7.

3.2 Collection System

The staff's efforts have made for a complete response to the CMOM directives which include (among other things) pump station inspections, manhole/sewer inspections and GIS mapping with work documentation.

The CCTV camera trailer was cleaned. Additionally, additional practice by the team has improved efficiency of mobilization and thus production. The save option for video footage was improved (a drop-in resolution allowed for smaller files) so files can now be uploaded directly to the GIS inspection reports or emailed without the need for compression. Additionally, the smaller file size allows for more camera footage to be saved during each mobilization.

All pump stations were inspected during the month as well as some CCTV sewer inspections in prioritized areas. The new pump truck was inspected for a clutch recall on August 16; work was completed to improve function.

Paving operations are proposed for Gay Hill Road and Sharp Hill Road; inspections of manholes in this area were conducted to prepare for riser installation as required.

## 4.0 Projects

Please see the engineering summary table for information about WPCA projects.

The entire pre-treatment has been or will be improved. Last year the new influent pumps (and SCADA/VFD controls) were installed. The auto-screen unit was completely overhauled several years ago. The new grit chamber will be installed this calendar year. The distribution boxes for influent flow have been examined and replacement measures are in the works.

The entire SBR aeration systems have been or will be improved. Last year a new turbo blower and re-built backup blower were positioned for SBR-5 and SBR-6. This year a new turbo blower and re-built backup blower will be positioned for SBR-3 and SBR-4. This coming year the configuration will be completed for the final two tanks. The improvements will lead to better air delivery, efficiency and cost savings.

4.1 WPCF/Water Supply

In a February 17 letter, the CTDEEP authorized the WPCA to construct the new grit removal system under the existing Grant in accordance with the plans prepared by MCA. The low bidder was O & G Industries, Inc.; awarded in a letter dated June 24. A project timeline was received on August 4 during a kickoff meeting with MCA. It is noted that the grit chamber replacement along

with the new influent pumps (and VFDs) represents a near complete renovation of the plant headworks. O & G personnel were onsite on August 31.

The RFP for the SBR-4 aeration improvement (diffuser/piping replacement) was advertised with a bid opening on April 27. The bid was prepared by the WPCA Engineer (Wright-Pierce) and awarded to Holzner Construction. A project timeline was defined during a kickoff meeting on June 16. Field measurements were completed to determine the amount of grit present in SBR-4; primarily present in the pre-react zone preceding the process tank body. Prior to the diffuser replacement, the influent piping and tank will be cleaned of grit. A task order for the remaining tanks' aeration system improvements was received on July 30. In August, the recently rebuilt (original, Spencer) Blower No. 4 was installed and Blower No. 3 (original, Spencer) was sent out for rebuilding/rehabilitation.

Woodard & Curran personnel were onsite on August 3 and 17 to confirm redundant alarm notifications for the plant's SCADA system and to correct a SCADA recording error. The WPCF has in place a system for the prevention of third-party intrusion. The existing program will likely be adequate to satisfy the White House directive.

In an attempt to enhance sludge thickening, representatives from Atlantic Coast Polymer and CleanWaters, Inc. were asked to conduct jar testing onsite in August to confirm the existing thickening (cationic) polymer is still ideal for current conditions. The polymer dosing has increased significantly in the last three months. It is suspected that either the polymer makeup or the biologic material has changed. Typically, wastewater influent has a negative charge with a required catonic polymer used for dewatering. Additionally, Rand-Whitney representatives were met to discuss potential interference with their (cationic) floc agent. Rand-Whitney had to increase their biocide usage for effluent control from their heat exchangers (to lower their effluent temperature) which resulted in higher-than-normal biofilm removal by staff. Polymer batch testing was conducted the week of August 23, an alternative (less expensive) polymer was discovered from CleanWaters.

Frontier Communications was onsite in August to replace a communication line for two fax machines and the backup rolling auto-caller (for SCADA alarms). On August 20, internet connection was lost but was quickly corrected by Atlantic Broadband.

A bid will be sent out for roof replacement; recent large storms have led to an increase in rainwater entering the main building through the ceiling. As indicated, the frequency and intensity of storm events is predicted to rise due to climate change.

Formal scoring of the engineering RFQ submittals was conducted on August 23. The scoring will be completed and submitted to the CTDPH as part of the grant request for the Cook Tower Replacement. An August 25 site inspection by the Fire Marshall, Water Operators, Superintendent and personnel from Communication Plus provided options and construction details for the potential communication tower construction and/or purchase of an existing/adjacent tower.

New flags (state and federal) were installed on the flag pole on August 23.

The influent VFD/Pump sequence was examined on August 31 to allow for the most efficient pumping from the plant's wetwell. Coordinating pumping with wetwell (action) levels improves plant performance and reduces energy consumption.

In the coming quarter, (influent) flow/load modeling will be conducted to determine if all six SBRs are necessary to conduct adequate process at the facility. A reduction in the number of process tanks would represent significant savings (in electricity).

A manifold for SBR-2 failed on August 31. Coordination of air blowers in both the main tank and anoxic zones were made to supply air to the tank for process. The breach expanded and the tank was taken off line on September 1 and drained on September 7. Plant process was not adversely affected. A scheduled repair will occur the second week of September. The entire (aging) aeration system will be replaced using the existing state grant funds.

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

Due to the COVID concerns, state and local personnel are mostly working remotely.

The Montville facility is slated for a routine audit in September. The USEPA has authorized CTDEEP to perform Off Site Desk Audits in place of Compliance Evaluation Inspections for required compliance monitoring activities under the CWA-NPDES program. Craig Motasky (Environmental Analyst II) will be conducting the review of the plant's process control and reporting. The Superintendent and Laboratory Directory provided initial data as requested.

The 2021 CTDEEP sewer lateral survey indicated the vast majority of municipalities consider their responsibility to be for the sewer mains- not individual laterals.

The USEPA, in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), published a draft of the first EPA-validated laboratory analytical method to test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in eight different environmental media, including wastewater. This method provides certainty and consistency and advances PFAS monitoring that is essential to protecting public health. The CTDEEP has proposed to sample and analyze 34 domestic treatment plants for the presence of a suspected carcinogen (PFAS, fire-retarding agent). Currently, the USEPA has only issued a drinking water health advisory for two of the 4,700 known PFAS, so individual states are working to set their own standards for PFAS in drinking water, surface water and biosolids. The State Office personnel are now working remotely, but the contracted engineering firm (Weston & Sampson) conducted sampling on September 8.

As part of the CTDEEP oversight for sludge (biosolid) disposal, Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities for the Hartford MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) incinerator was provided an August 2021 summary letter and questionnaire (and twelve months of laboratory analytical data) for the plant's TWAS (thickened waste activated sludge). Additional mercury testing results were provided. The MDC will be more selective in the coming years regarding the type and volume accepted for incineration (due to new air quality/emission standards). No concerns have been identified about the plant's disposal at the MDC facility; the Montville WPCF sludge is considered of good quality and is used for blending at their facility. Even with a lower detection limit, no mercury has been found to be present in the plant's waste sludge.

According to the CTDEEP, chlorine and polymer supplies are in limited supply. A formal survey was conducted by Carlos Esguerra (Sanitary Engineer 3) about potential supply chain interruptions during the COVID crisis.

The Superintendent met with state staff about Sustainable CT, a voluntary certification program which provides best practices to ensure the balance between the environment, equity, and economy. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification for grant funding.

4.3 CMOM

A total of 12,000 l.f.of cleaning and CCTV inspection has been completed so far in the calendar year. Repeat cleaning/inspections were performed on August 19 and 23 for runs along Connecticut Boulevard, Indiana Circle and Hunters Run. Formal manhole evaluations continued in July with emphasis on those "critical manholes" (2010/2011 URS reporting, cracked lids, paved over); in total 150 locations (of the 1,611 sewer system manholes) have been inspected to confirm condition. Paved-over manholes are being uncovered and those requiring repair (e.g., cracked cover/frame) are being repaired- industry standards require sewer access every 300 to 500 feet along a sewer main for cleaning and inspection.

CAI Technologies (Town GIS contractor) with one of the Superintendent's primary goals- to map the collection system with appropriate naming/data nomenclature for the sewers and pump stations. Additionally, the platform ensures documentation of all work completed.

The Superintendent received a proposal from the Town Engineer (Wright-Pierce) on August 6 for the Cross-Country Clearing Project (CIP FY 2022) (approximately 4,000 l.f.of sewer mains in Subsystem 2 near Oakdale Elementary School). This project supports the maintenance of sewers in an area identified previously as having high I/I. Wright-Pierce will provide design, permitting

and contractor selection via CRCOG. On August 31, Wright-Pierce personnel were met to discuss the project. Letters were sent to property abutters to announce the work. A site walk was conducted on September 1 after securing sewer as-builts and GIS mapping.

4.4 Water Supply

The volume of water purchased from Groton Utilities (GU) continues to be lower than normal due to COVID's effect on economic conditions within the town.

CAI Technologies (Town GIS contractor) will be provided information for the development of accurate mapping for the Town's water infrastructure using a combination of existing (CLA Engineers) mapping and improvements. Initial kickoff meeting will begin in September.

## 5.0 Development

Some inquiries were received about single-family home construction with connection to municipal services. Several calls have been for the former Cumberland Farms property (863 Norwich-New London Turnpike) proposed development as a laundromat.

## 6.0 Finances

The FY 2022 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets (which include the respective CIPs) began on July 1 (approved at the April 12 Town Council Meeting). FY 2021 budget sheets are provided. The Town's new (updated) purchasing policy was received on August 18 and reviewed with the Accountant and Finance Director. The WPCA follows this new policy.

6.1 Accounts Review

The WPCA-approved budgets provide transparency to rate payers about priorities and the use of the enterprise fund. Utilities are the most common enterprise funds. Enterprise funds are similar to private funds (i.e., business) although they are expected to be self-balancing (not for profit). As indicated, last year's approved (FY 2021) budget adequately predicted the year's revenues and expenditures. Responsible spending and a rise in revenues (as well as cost savings) led to the fiscal year ending in the black for both water and sewer budgets when the non-monetary depreciation expense. Municipal funds (including Enterprise Funds) should carry a positive Fund Balance to be self-supporting to provide excellent service. The WPCA showed its commitment to the ratepayers to provide economical services with no rate increases required. Rates and ancillary fees are adequate and consistent with similar water and sewer utilities in the state. The WPCA will continue to demonstrate prudent use of the ratepayer funds for operations (i.e., maintenance, staff, services) and capital (i.e. infrastructure, equipment, vehicles) to serve the ratepayers as indicated in the FY 2022 budget. A adequate 5-year capital (rolling) plan is in place. CIPs from previous FYs are ongoing (e.g., SBR diffusers, grit chamber); while CIP funds can be repurposed- they must remain in capital funding.

Blum Shapiro (now CLA CPAs- Town Accountants) began a formal review of the WPCA accounts in July. The utility net position (i.e. fund balance) revenues/expenditures (i.e. income statement) and cash flow statements will be reviewed. Additional "testing" will be conducted in August and September, but for now the goal was to confirm procedures. No concerns were raised.

6.2 Assets

The WPCA asset listing was improved for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and will be instrumental in the asset management program to be completed in FY 2022. The Superintendent is working on an asset registry recorded in the GIS platform; this asset accounting system will permit management of aging equipment and the development of an appropriate CIP through risk modeling.

The accurate GIS fixed attribute descriptions (e.g., wetwell construction, pump manufacturer) and inspection attribute descriptions (e.g., FOG) are instrumental in the development of an asset management program as well as preventing the loss of institutional knowledge upon key staff retirement.

A "merge" of the 2010/2011 URS data was accomplished to populate asset information in the fixed attribute (descriptions). The WPCA is now using *AxisGIS Editor* and the ESRI ArcGIS Online to allow for CMOM data tracking. Reportedly, the former Administrator had purchased an asset management software package; it could not be located on any workstation at the WPCF nor was

the WPCA Engineer or staff familiar with it. The Superintendent along with the GIS contractor and WPCA Engineer will assist in identifying appropriate software support for managing assets; likely *InfoAsset* or Info360 (AutoDesk products) which is a control center for wet infrastructure asset registry to process inspection data and asset-centric information. The Superintendent attended a virtual information session on Info360 (an AutoDesk product) on August 27 to learn more about the importance of digital control/management of assets.

Funds in the water and sewer accounts have been appropriately reserved for capital improvement with the development of a 5-year projection. Some bonds, a grant and a proposed grant are considered for current and future asset financing. All financing options were reviewed as part of the closing of the books for FY 2021.

6.3 Pandemic Response

The executive orders established during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic were extended (*Declaration of a Health Emergency*). The declaration authorizes the Governor to order certain actions that will help expedite potential reimbursement funding to municipalities. Reimbursable items would include PPE.

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- State Grant Agreement 2017-170491*, 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. Additionally, the aeration systems for SBR-1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 will be replaced. The Mayor requested an extension for the Grant (due to expire in June 2021). On June 1, the Mayor was notified that the extension has been drafted and routed for all the signatures of approval from CTDEEP.

The 2020 CTDEEP Draft *Integrated Water Quality Report* was prepared to satisfy statutory reporting requirements pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to asses 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*. The revolving fund is a channel for low interest loans or grants for investments in water infrastructure. Specifically, grant monies would help pay for the replacement of the Cook Tower water storage facility (tank). A WPCA FY 2021 CIP project allowed for an engineering report to determine a course of action for the water facility and FY 2022 CIP allowed for $1 million to be financed through the grant program. Project meetings have been held with Raul Tejada on May 24 and 26, CTDEEP *Sanitary Engineer 3* to discuss project scope and an engineering RFQ. The *DWSRF Project Rollover Application* was updated on May 27 to move the project along- note the costing and the budget are not binding. The request for engineering RFQs ended on August 11. Four RFQ submittals were received prior to the due date of Aug 11: Wright-Pierce, Woodard & Curran, Weston & Sampson and Environmental Partners. Scoring of the engineering firms was made and formally provided to the CTDEEP Raul Tajeda (Sanitary Engineer 3) as required for the grant. The Water Operators have been helpful in reviewing these bids.

Recently, a bipartisan Senate infrastructure framework was introduced as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (August 2, 2021). The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* is the bipartisan Senate bill resulting from the negotiations with the Biden Administration to provide a total of $550 billion in additional spending above the budget baseline in an array of capital programs. The legislation includes the bipartisan wastewater and drinking water reauthorization bill approved by the full Senate in April, as well as an energy policy bill approved by the US Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee (approved in July).

6.5 Energy

The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power in June 2020 at near 100% capacity resulting in a large drop in grid power demand. The onsite generation has led to significant savings by reducing the transmission costs because most of the power used is generated onsite. Maintenance requirements have somewhat dropped the onsite generation of power. The unit was offline for one week in July. All said, approximately $140,000 in savings was generated by using the fuel cell for reliable onsite generation of electrical power. On July 30, the Superintendent met with The Mattabassett District's WPCA (serves New Britain, Berlin, Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill and Farmington) to discuss the fuel cell.

Superintendent Albertson summarized his report complimenting the staff on their response to the two (2) weather events, Tropical Storms Henri and Ida. Tropical Storm Ida brought close to 10 inches of rain with the plant at capacity for five (5) hours. K. Loiler was on call and staff were brought in to bring the plant back on line. He also reported the plant received a Utility Management Achievement Award as the best managed plant out of 550 in New England. The award was presented by the largest professional organization in New England, the New England Water Environmental Association.

**i.** Report from Mayor

Mayor McDaniel remarked on a lose manhole cover on Route 32 that he reported to J. Lily who was on vacation and referred the matter to K. Loiler who took care of it preventing the incidence of an accident or tire repair. Commissioner Siragusa asked if a request was submitted for Covid funding for replacement of the Cook Tower or whether the plan was to have the ratepayers pay for the water tower. Mayor McDaniel responded no request for the same had been submitted to the Town Council and stated water was paid by everyone not just ratepayers. He also responded to Commissioner Jinkerson that a request for Covid funds for the Cook Tower was indeed a reasonable one. Mayor McDaniel responded to Commissioner Siragusa regarding the WPCA Administrator position stating there was an applicant, but the Commission did not have two (2) meetings in a row and said he would be speaking with Chairman Longton concerning the matter.

**j.** Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson introduced Engineer Mike Headd from Woodard and Curran who explained his firm did an analysis of the two (2) distribution boxes (influent flow from Rand-Whitney and a secondary one) and found them to be in severe decay from age and exposure. There were areas of up to four (4) inches of concrete loss exposing re-bar that was structurally compromised. There were also a number of gates that were loose and have a high potential for failure. After some questions/answers from the Commission, it was reported the project would be engineered as one distribution box and got out to bid through normal purchasing procedures and this project was not currently in the capital plan.

**k.** Old Business -- *None*

**l.** New Business

1. To consider and act on approval of funding of roof replacement.

**THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** hereby resolves to approve of the failing roof for the main building for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount not to exceed $120,000 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be financed with reserve monies.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR No. 2021-19 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve the replacement of the failing roof for the main building for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount not to exceed $120,000 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be financed with reserve monies. Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner Longton. Discussion: Superintendent Albertson spoke of numerous water incursions during the last two (2) storms and their proximity to sensitive equipment and also

mentioned minor patching to the gravel-lined flat roof in the past. A bid to repair the entire roof would be requested. Two (2) contractors have looked at the roof since June commenting a search for leaks would require digging up the existing roof possibly causing damage to it. By installing a full membrane roof, breaches would easily be detected. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, and Siragusa. *Opposed:* None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

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

## II. Water Commission

**a.** Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported receiving four (4) responses to the Cook Water Tower replacement RFQ from which three (3) RFPs were requested. Three (3) RFPs were received today and are under review.

**b.** Old Business – *None*

**c.** New Business

1. To have the Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission make a request from federal funds for the Town for the Water Tower Replacement Project.

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to have the Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission make a request from federal funds for the Town for the Water Tower Replacement Project. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel was asked if it is allowed to use ARPA funding and he replied that he believes it is. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, and Siragusa. *Opposed:* None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried. *(Motion added to Agenda per earlier discussion by the Commission.)*

**d.** Remarks from the Public

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

**e.** Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Siragusa stated the Commission would be remiss if not thing about these repairs and replacement projects ahead of time. Commissioner Jinkerson stated he was happy to not be on the road. Chairman Longton thanked everyone for coming.

**f.** Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 3-0, all in favor. 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.**