



WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

The Water and Sewer Authority held a regular meeting, Thursday, April 11, 2024. The meeting was held at Newtown Public Works, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Kathleen Torreso, Gene Vetrano, Alan Shepard, Mark Benedict, Lou Carbone

Absent: Venessa Tobi, Carl Zencey

Also Present: Director of Public Work Fred Hurley, Julio Segarra and David Connors of Veolia

Public Participation – None

Minutes – M. Benedict moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting. K. Torreso seconded, all in favor.

Report by Veolia – J. Segarra reported that the water distribution system has been 95% installed. In the next week or so they will be tying in individual laterals. Well 8 is moving along. They are waiting for the weather to ease up to do a 72 hour test of both wells. There was only one grinder pump issue which the Reverie Brewery. If the situation doesn't get straightened out they may have to go to an industrial permit. The plant itself is running well. They are having trouble getting the alum system on line. His recommendation is that the alum be introduced straight at the distribution as opposed to introducing it to carry water in the basement.

Report by Public Works Director – F. Hurley reported that Centerplan has come back for their final payout for the Hawleyville sewer extension. There was over \$161,000 in retainage that the town has been holding as well as \$43,000. This has been vetted and approved by Fuss & O'Neill and reviewed by Town Attorney, Cohen and Wolf. The bond release form has been signed off by all parties and we are ready to make payment. He also reported that the Water and Sewer GIS will be held on a different platform to make sure the data is correct. It can be added to the town GIS at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

Possible limited contract extension – F. Hurley explained that they are running into a time crunch concerning the contract. Depending on how the board wants to proceed, they may need to go to RFP and that may not be enough time to start a new contract by July 1. M. Benedict moved to extend the current O&M contract for a maximum of 3 months. A. Shepard seconded, all in favor.

Set sewer and water benefit assessment for recent and current projects – A. Shepard moved, that the Public Works Director prepare the information necessary to set a sewer benefit assessment for all sewer users benefitting from the EDA project at Fairfield Hills with the total amount of the benefit not to exceed for all parties the \$915,000 share of the project from Town funds. Said assessment will be at the Town rate of interest amortized over 20 years and apportioned based on flow history over the past year. Said benefit assessment is to commence 1/1/2024. M. Benedict seconded, all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FFH Water/Sewer System Improvement – In Report by Veolia

Financials – F. Hurley explained that if there is no rate increase then the sewer system may be out of cash by 2029. An opening suggestion is to have 3 years of 10% increases. There is concern from members that an increase 3 years in a row may be too much. The number of years and amounts are all adjustable and can be decided once the overall budget situation is clear.

I&I – J. Segarra reported that they are getting closing to figuring out the issue at the Enclave pump station. They are going to go there when they anticipate it happening and when it does, they will open manholes to get even closer.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk