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Marianne Brown,
Chairman

Fred Hurley,
Director

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 13, 2022. The meeting was held at Newtown Public Works, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Alan Shepard, Mark Benedict, George Hill, Lou Carbone

Absent: Marianne Brown, Gene Vetrano, Carl Zencey

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Julio Segarra from Suez Environmental Service (via teleconference) and Mike Burton

Having no Chair or Vice Chair present, M. Benedict motioned to nominate George Hill as Chair pro-tem, L. Carbone Seconded, all in favor.

Public Participation – None

Minutes – A. Shepard moved to approve the minutes of the 2/24/22 meeting. M. Benedict seconded, all in favor.

Report by Suez Water Environmental Services – J. Segarra reported that both clarifiers are on line and they are dosing the alum for phosphate season. They are preparing the UV system for the May 1st start up. The town will be receiving \$6,000 from the state for nitrates. The permit allows for 42 lbs per day and they average 12. On the Water side, everything is running well. They just replaced a 400 amp bypass at well 7.

Report by Public Works Director – The Bungalow Terrace general permit has been submitted to DEEP. F. Hurley also reported that former WSA Chair Peter Alagnia has contacted him asking if they are looking into a community septic for the Riverside community. F. Hurley will ask for the Health Directors comments on this suggestions.

Report of GIS Project – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Woods/Maplewood Pump Station – F. Hurley reported that they were supposed to have the agreement completed by last Friday. The arbitrator said they have an agreement but they are still waiting for a sign off from Maplewoods attorney. The WSA has held up doing any enforcement waiting for the parties involved to finalize their agreement for corrective action. Maplewoods is the party who said they would not participate without Town Attorney participation. They also forced the need for the Town enlisting engineering support. Although the parties apparently reached agreement over a month ago thru the “mediator”, Maplewoods has failed to ratify the agreement. A. Shepard moved to bill Maplewoods for the excess legal and engineering expenses occurred by the WSA. L. Carbone seconded, all in favor.

EDC Grant for FFH – J. Segarra reported that the Fairfield Hills sewer replacement program has started, they laid about 200 to 300 feet of pipe through the most congested utility area. They are currently behind the P&R building and have incurred unexpected structures that were not on the mapping. Once they get across Wasserman way the mapping is much more complete so fewer surprises are anticipated.

Sandy Hook Pump Station – J. Segarra reported that on Monday the pump station will be on line and the Town will be re-taking possession of it. The old pump station used to be 250 gallons per minute of capacity and now it will be 540 gallons per minute of capacity..

Financials - In preparation for the proposed 22-23 sewer budget, a review of the previous year's cash positions; operating budget revenues and expenses and the overall WSA unrestricted fund balance position was presented. In general, the operational budget has been negative over the past five years as the ongoing five year equipment replacement programs that began at the 20 year mark of the system operation, comes to a conclusion. During this time, the available cash position has ranged from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 and the unrestricted fund balance gone from \$5.7 million to a steady level of \$4.7 million while the replacement program was underway. This has led to the conclusion that only a minor usage rate increase will be needed and not any major rate increases for the foreseeable future. At the same time, the water fund will also be increasing fund position.

I&I – No update

NEW BUSINESS

24 Glen Road Request for Sewer Extension – Mike Burton presented his application for a project at 24 Glen Road that has P&Z approval for mixed use. There is an existing house and 2 buildings will be added to the property. He has shown that it would be suitable for an onsite septic. The design flow is just under 5,200 gallons per day. M. Benedict moved to accept the proposal for consideration and direct the appropriate reviews with a recommendation at the next regular meeting in May, for a possible vote to approve after the required public hearing. L. Carbone seconded, motion passes (3 Yes, 1 abstain; Shepard).

FFH Water System Improvement/ARP Funds – F. Hurley explained that right now they are going through the review and it is his understanding that the funds have been approved. He suggested also looking at the overhaul of well #8 or the interconnection with Aquarion. Well #8 is important because it can handle the entire system. It could take the place of well #7 if needed. The interconnection would be the ultimate system backup for sustainability.

Designation of Design Engineer for FFH Water System Improvement – F. Hurley reported that the preliminary design at FFH was part of a task order from the WSA. To do a project of this size, you should go to an RFP. A. Shepard moved to go to RFP to select a design engineer for the FFH Water System Improvement. M. Benedict seconded, all in favor.

Comments from Board Members – None

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted
Arlene Miles, Clerk