

Special Meeting Minutes

Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority
Thursday, March 8, 2012
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Schober, Siragusa, Thorn, and May. Absent was Councilor Murphy. Also present was Mayor Ron McDaniel, Attorney Ron Ochsner and Councilor Billy Caron.

d. Alterations to the Agenda

Administrator Lynch stated Mr. Noel Lafayette from Steep Hill Renewables, Inc. called and stated he is running late due to a traffic accident and anticipates he will be a half an hour late to the meeting. Motion made by Commissioner May, seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to move agenda item 1. i. 1. To 1. p. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes February 6, 2012.

Motion made by Commissioner Siragusa, seconded by Commissioner Schober to approve the February 6, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission.

Administrator Lynch stated he did not have anything additional to submit to the Commission.

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

Chairman May asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

h. Executive Session – none.

i. Special Recognitions/Presentations

2. Presentation from Attorney Harry Heller regarding a proposed hotel on the Gager property.

Attorney Harry Heller, Rt. 32, representing Marriott Plaza LLC who are proposing a one hundred and twenty room Spring Hill Suites located at 1360 Route 32 (Norwich New London Turnpike). He stated there is city sewer and water available on the site and have requested a

capacity determination from the Town Engineer. He explained there will be approximately twelve thousand gallons requested per day for the development.

Mr. Bernie Baker, Nathan Jacobson Associates stated he has reviewed the plans for capacity and determined there is capacity on Rt. 32 to serve the hotel, stating there is approximately seven hundred and sixteen thousand gallons per day remaining after serving the hotel.

Mr. Didato stated flow is watched closely and there should be no issue with the flow request.

Motion made by Chairman May, seconded by Commissioner Schober to authorize Administrator Brian Lynch to write a letter to Attorney Harry Heller stating there is sufficient water and sewer capacity and to state in the letter that the determination for the capacity will expire in six months. (September 8, 2012). Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

j. Report from Commission Attorney on Matters Referred

Attorney Ochsner discussed a claim filed against the Town regarding the WPCA.

k. Report from Operations Division

Superintendent Didato discussed a trip to Georgia he and Administrator Lynch took to tour a wastewater facility. He asked the Commission members to take a look at the power point presentation he submitted regarding SBR's and to contact him if there are any questions or comments regarding the presentation.

MONTHLY OPERATING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2012

1. With the available data to date the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) continues to be in full compliance of its NPDES permit.
2. There were no treatment plant odor complaints last month.
3. Sludge thickness has averaged 5.4% over the last month.
4. We averaged 49 lbs/day of nitrogen in our discharge last month. Our DEEP limit for calendar year 2012 has been reduced to 124 lbs/day. I expect a credit in the amount of \$5,341 from the State for being below the nitrogen limit in calendar year 2011.
5. On January 13th we had a meeting at the treatment facility with URS regarding the new headwork's project. The facility has also been visited by vendors that provide equipment used in headwork's. Update: Soil boring samples had been taken last month in the area of the proposed construction. The engineers are still working on determining the exact location for the equipment.
6. We had fork truck training in February. We had written and physical testing following the instruction.
7. Performed more work on our smaller scrubber. The fiberglass impeller was touched up with resin, and it was also balanced.
8. Attended a spill taskforce meeting at the Foxwoods treatment plant. While at the facility we were able to have a tour of the plant. They have an SBR system too.
9. The Treatment Plant compliance inspection report has been received from the last surprise inspection from the DEEP. No concerns noted. However, it was pointed out that our lab needs to include the method of analysis for sludge testing on submitted reports in the future.
10. One of our off-shift operators has retired.
11. We replaced a failing return activated sludge (RAS) pump in our waste activated sludge (WAS) tank. You may recall that most conventional treatment plants run a system that is called return activated sludge (RAS). Unlike conventional treatment plants our treatment plant works with sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) and was designed without a RAS system. In a conventional plant the mixed liquor suspended solids (MLSS) are settled in a clarifier and then returned to the aeration tank as RAS. The RAS makes it possible for the microorganisms to be

in the treatment system longer than the flowing wastewater. For conventional activated plants the RAS flow is generally 30% of the incoming wastewater flow. However, the SBR process does not have separate clarifiers and aeration tanks, it is all treated within individual tanks running in a batch mode. However, we put the new replacement pump in our waste activated sludge tank which is plumbed to a manifold system on our splitter box. Previously we did all of this work, excavations and plumbing was done in house by our own staff. I call it a modified RAS system. The benefits are as follows. (1) It gives us the ability to quickly seed a tank if it has an upset. (2) It provides a higher concentration of microorganisms in the pre-react zone to treat the ever-increasing organic loadings to our plant. (3) It helps to provide a more homogeneous and consistent wastewater. Another benefit that we realize is that we are utilizing the remaining nutrients still contained in the RAS. As you may know, we have spent as much as \$75,000/year augmenting our nutrient deficient wastewater with ammonia and phosphoric acid for nutrients in the past. We are now getting much of that needed nutrient value from the new RAS system and we stopped adding in the costly ammonia and phosphoric acid. So far we have not seen any degradation of effluent quality. It has reduced our treatment expense by as much as \$75,000/year. With all this said, the RAS pump has more than paid for itself.

12. We continue to repair and adjust the old head work and septage receiving equipment.

13. We repaired one of our thickened activated sludge (TWAS) pumps. The retaining plate needed to be machined and the rotor had to be reinstalled.

14. We need to replace the computer program that runs all 6 SBR's. The current software is 1980 technology and is failing more often as parts are getting harder to find. This is a critical component of our plant. Software, and installation work is estimated to be \$68,340 from our SBR vendor. This upgrade is taking place in many of the original SBR systems as it provides a much better platform for SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition)

COLLECTION SYSTEM

We corrected some problems at our Partridge Hollow pump station. The bent pump guide rail and the ball check valve needed correction.

POTABLE WATER

1. Continuing the installation of water meters that are compatible with radio read remotes.
2. Locating buried curb boxes (property line service shut off valves) on many of the older accounts. It is important that these valves are accessible to shut off water to a building, particularly if the inside valve is inoperable. Note: Normally before a new meter is installed the water is shut off using the inside valve. However, we are seeing many occasions of older inside valves not functioning properly. As a result we temporarily shut off the water at the curb box.

1. Report from Administration Division

1. We are finishing up on the collections for the third quarter of the year. We had six customers set up payment plans to catch up on their delinquent accounts. Our residential revenues for January and February are up \$5,000 compared to the same time last year.

2. Mike and I meet with the Director of the new facility at the prison. They have not paid their connection fee for the hook up to the sewer system. I have sent correspondence to the State Department of Corrections requesting that they address the issue.

3. Harry Heller will be on the agenda to discuss the new hotel that is being proposed to be built on route 32. The plans are being reviewed by Bernie Baker of Nathan Jacobson. Bernie pointed out that there is still capacity in the line to handle this project and growth for the future, but we may want to address expansion in that line in the next few years.

4. I submitting a draft of the water and sewer budget for everyone's review. I have added some new line items in the budget this year. I also have included a capital improvement plan. Mike and I are addressing some of the needs for the plant and the collection system.

5. We will be going out for a reverse auction on our electrical contract. I have set up with a company (World Energy) that will contact electricity suppliers to bid on our usage. This should help lower our electrical rate.

6. Rand-Whiney sent an addendum to the MOU at the beginning of the month. They asked if we could have Wright-Pierce review it content. Mike and I sat with Ron Ochsner and Matt Auger about the request. We were advised to send it to the engineers for their review.

7. April first will be the start of our new drop box service for sewer and water payments. We have met with Thomas Drunsic of Lighthouse Financial Services of Woburn Ma. And have reviewed all the accounts and procedures. This is going to cut down on time Maureen and I spend processing payment through the mail.

Administrator Lynch discussed the reverse auction for the electrical business, stating the contract is up in March. He discussed the trip to Georgia to view a wastewater treatment plant and stated he has submitted pictures for the Commissioners to view.

m. Report from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel stated he is working with Administrator Lynch regarding possibly waiving the connection fees for the Public Safety Building for both water and sewer connections. He indicated the cost to hook up to both the water and the sewer is approximately sixteen thousand dollars.

Administrator Lynch stated he will present the Commission with the exact dollar amounts requested to waive the fees and a determination if it is possible for the WPCA to waive the fees for a town building at the next meeting.

n. Report from special or sub-committees – none.

o. Report from Engineers – none.

p. Old Business

1. i. 1. A presentation from Mr. Noel Lafayette from Steep Hill Renewables, Inc. regarding a solar energy solution for the Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority.

Mr. Lafayette discussed the design, build, finance and operations and management for the Steep Hill Renewables capabilities, electricity prices, environmental compliance costs, fuel costs, demand for electricity and required investments for the project. He discussed electricity prices in Connecticut, net metering, solar solutions, power purchase agreement details, solar power purchase agreements, the solar energy monitoring program, and ownership of the equipment. Discussions were held regarding cost reductions over time with the use of solar panels, the costs of purchasing energy off the grid and the costs of off peak usage, the volatility of a twenty year contract, degradation, and the overall benefits of the use of solar energy, stating the town can save three hundred thousand dollars per year over a twenty year period.

Chairman May stated he would like to see a business plan prior to any decision making regarding this subject.

q. New Business

1. To consider and act on a motion to discuss the proposed 2012/2013 sewer budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Thorn, seconded by Commissioner Schober, discussion, Administrator Lynch stated he would like the Commission to look over the budget for discussion and a vote at the next meeting. He discussed the Capital Improvement Plan, stating he has met with the Finance Director regarding costs. He is proposing the same revenues from last year but if there is a down trend he will look at reducing the Capital Improvements to offset the deficiencies in revenues. The budget consists of the same rates as last year and no increases proposed.

2. To consider and act on a resolution to adopt the 2012/2013 sewer budget.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the 2012/2013 sewer budget.

This item was removed from discussion and will be added to the next regularly scheduled meeting agenda for action.

- s. Reports/referrals from Planning & Zoning – none.

- t. Payment of bills

1. SAR-2012-004. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to pay bills in the amount of \$ \$3,226.00 (three thousand two hundred twenty six dollars) per attached Schedule A.

Motion made by Commissioner Schober, seconded by Commissioner Thorn, discussion, none, roll call vote, 4-0, voting in favor were Commissioners Schober, Siragusa, Thorn and May, voting in opposition, none, resolution adopted.

2. **Water Commission**

- a. Report from Sub-Committees – none.

- b. Report from Engineers – none.

- c. Old Business – none.

- d. New Business

1. To consider and act on a resolution to authorize Administrator Brian Lynch to utilize fifty five thousand dollars (\$55,000) from the Water Commission savings account to purchase remote capability water meters.

Motion made by Commissioner Schober, seconded by Commissioner Thorn, discussion, Chairman May suggested adding the fifty five thousand dollars to the proposed budget for this year, stating it would be easier to do it this way than the way Administrator Lynch is proposing as it can be approved as a whole with the budget. Administrator Lynch discussed the need for the meters and discussed how they have handled purchasing meters to date.

3. Payment of Bills

a. SAR-2012-005. THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to pay bills in the amount of \$313.50 (three hundred thirteen dollars and fifty cents) per attached Schedule B.

Motion made by Commissioner Thorn, seconded by Commissioner Siragusa, discussion, none, roll call vote, 4-0, voting in favor were Commissioners Schober, Siragusa, Thorn and May, voting in opposition, none, resolution adopted.

4. Executive Session - none.

5. Remarks from Commission Members – none.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Schober, seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.

Schedule A

Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC	\$3,226.00
Total:	\$3,226.00

Schedule B

Branse, Willis & Knapp, LLC	\$313.50
Total:	\$313.50