

Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 10, 2010
5:00 p.m. – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the Special Meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Hillman (5:10 p.m.), May, Schober, Siragusa and Thorn. Also present was Mayor Jaskiewicz, Administrator Brian Lynch, Superintendent Michael Didato, Attorney Ron Ochsner, Attorney Matthew Auger, Chris Clark from MTUA, and Paul Shafman and Jim Wood from Rand Whitney Containerboard.

4. Remarks from the Public

Chairman May asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Commission and there were none.

5. To review and discuss proposed treatment options and to inform the Commission members of the existing plant configurations.

Motion made by Commissioner Siragusa, seconded by Commissioner Thorn to enter into a workshop format to discuss proposed treatment options of the existing plant configurations and to review and discuss potential State Grant funding. Discussion: Chairman May stated he called the Commission together for a workshop to discuss the current plant configuration and he has asked Superintendent Didato to give a presentation regarding his research and an overview of what may be happening at the plant in the future. The meeting is designed to educate the Commission regarding ongoing and future developments. He expects Rand Whitney will come before the Town Council in the near future to give a presentation and he wants everyone to be informed and up to date regarding everything that is going on. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried. The Commission moved from the podium to the chairs in the audience to better view the presentation from Mr. Didato.

Mr. Didato distributed a handout of his presentation for the Commission members to follow. (Schedule A, attached). He gave a summary of a proposal presented on October 20, 2010 at a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection he attended with Administrator Lynch and Attorney Auger. At the meeting a presentation was given by Mr. Jim Cobery and Jay Malzinski for Rand Whitney Containerboard regarding options and proposals for treating Rand Whitney Containerboard wastewater. Questions were asked by Commissioner Hillman regarding bonding issues and bond money from the State, and if the property in question will be released to Rand Whitney, Commissioner Thorn inquired regarding the options for the outfall to the river and if it could be re-routed through the filters to provide Rand Whitney with additional water instead of going through the river. Questions were asked regarding flow capacity, nitrogen outfall, loss of revenue, losing credits for nitrogen, the best location logistically for the proposal, replacing old equipment, odor complaints, sludge, and SBR. Attorney Auger inquired if there was an issue with the permit if there is a separation and if DEP is concerned that Rand Whitney's existing verdict will have to be modified. Superintendent Didato stated new permits will have to be issued for any of the proposed scenarios. Mayor Jasiewicz stated these discussions are being held really early and this is still in the early stages of discussion. He does not want anyone to think anything is being done and this is a done deal. This is a discussion only and Rand Whitney still has to come in and look at this, he hopes there will eventually be a resolution with Rand Whitney, but this is important to

know these discussions are premature and there have been no formal decisions made regarding any of the discussions held at this meeting. Chairman May stated he called the meeting to educate the Commission regarding ongoing issues and no decisions or conclusions should come out of this meeting, it is for informational purposes only. Commissioner Hillman inquired as to why if there is a wastewater contract working and a plant that is functioning within the limits the Commission is considering changing anything? Paul Shafman of Rand Whitney Containerboard discussed the issue of why, and stated Rand Whitney would like to take control of its wastewater treatment and manage the wastewater itself and end a long standing problem with the Town. He stated there is a large benefit is if the anaerobic treatment is used the town would not have to worry about compliance, it is a green technology that will reduce all the carbon in the waste by turning it into methane that will be used at the plant. He explained it is an environmentally responsible technology. There will be a significant reduction in the costs of operations if this technology is used. Commissioner Thorn inquired if there is a procedure in place to ensure that the outfall does not have a negative impact on the environment to the river. Attorney Ochsner discussed benefits vs. costs of the proposal and the need for a balancing of the issues prior to implementation of any of the options. Chairman May thanked the Commission, attorneys, Mayor Jaskiewicz and Rand Whitney for attending the meeting and taking part in the discussions.

6. Motion made by Commissioner Schober, seconded by Commissioner Hillman to review and discuss potential State grant funding.

Chairman May stated this item was discussed briefly during the workshop and asked Attorney Auger to speak regarding this issue. Attorney Auger stated back in 2007 during the June special session, there was a five million dollar grant in aid to the Town of Montville for infrastructure improvements and upgrades at the sewage treatment facility. This funding never made it to the bond commission agenda, and the commission is going to meet on December 10, 2010. The DEP would have to seek bond commission approval for funding at the December meeting. The five million is part of a stand alone bond authorization and is not scheduled to be spent out of existing DEP funds or accounts for clean water. This makes the money easier to obtain. He suggested sending a letter supporting the requesting funds to DEP and to the current Governor. The town needs to schedule a meeting with the DEP Commissioner to get this moving. If the bond commission approves the request the money is released to DEP and DEP negotiates and enters into an agreement with the town. The money will go to the town and not directly to the WPCA. He hopes the money issue will be placed on the bond committee's December agenda for approval because the money may not be available after January 1st. He discussed events and meetings held to date preparing for the meeting and the involvement of Administrator Lynch and Mayor Jaskiewicz. Mayor Jaskiewicz stated this may be the last effort to try to get this grant and everyone is doing their best to obtain the money. A discussion was held regarding the distribution of the funds if they are obtained and how and what they can be used for if they are obtained. DEP has the statutory and regulatory authority to restrict how the money is used. Chairman May asked Attorney Auger to attend the meeting of the Town Council with Superintendent Didato when this issue is discussed to answer any questions they may have and for clarification. He stated the last thing he wants to do is to not offer the Town Council the proper education regarding this issue.

7. Remarks from the Public

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

8. Remarks from the Commissioners – none.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Hillman, seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville