

**AMENDED –3/5/3018**

**Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall**

**1. Water and Sewer Commission**

**a. Call to Order**

Chairman Murphy 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 Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers, **Brian Quinn**, Anthony Siragusa, Robert Thorn and Chairman Gary Murphy. Also present were Administrator Brian Lynch, Superintendent Michael Didato, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, Bill Pieniadz of P & H Construction, and Chris Clark of the Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority. A quorum was present. **Commissioner Quinn said he is a 6-year resident of the Town and has worked for the last 20 years at Groton Utilities.**

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

**e. To consider an act on a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of December 4, 2017.**

Motion by Commissioner Thorn, seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to approve Regular Minutes of December 4, 2017. Discussion: Commissioner Thorn noted that his name was misspelled under agenda Item 1.a. Mayor McDaniel noted that votes taken under Items 1.o.1 and 1.r should read 5-0 not 3-0. **Voice vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.**

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

Administrator Lynch handed out a packet of communication items for the Commission's review that were also sent electronically.

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

Chairman Murphy asked three times for remarks. There were none.

**h. Commission Attorney on Matters Referred -- None**

**i. Report from Administration Division**

Administrator Lynch submitted an Administrator's Report as of January 2018 that was included in the packet as follows:

1. In your packet, I have placed a copy of proposed changes to our current sewer connection fee structure. Mike and I spoke to a few municipalities to determine how they charged new customers when they want to connect to the sewer system. The last bond payment for the sewer system will be paid this July. Lowering the connection fee and simplifying the language as to what constitutes a user will be beneficial to the Town.
2. The State Drinking Water Section has decided to implement a “Safe Drinking Water Primary Assessment” fee. The Assessment Period is from July 1, 2018, thru June 30, 2019. I put a copy of the letter we received for this in your packet. I will make this assessment a new line item in the water budget.
3. A housekeeping matter: The WUCC is getting ready to finalize the Eastern Connecticut exclusive service areas. Norwich Public Utilities provides the water to some areas in Montville. Older mapping did not properly show what areas Norwich serviced. The correspondence in the packet show the area to which Norwich provides water.
4. I have begun working on next year’s budgets. I have almost completed the water budget, which I will bring to the Commission for the April meeting. I will have the sewer budget ready for the March meeting.

Administrator Lynch commented on Item #2 of his report stating that the assessment fee on each customer is \$4.00.

**j. Report from Operations Division**

Superintendent Didato submitted an operating report as to January 2018 that was included in the packet as follows:

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 averaged about 4.5%.
4. We had an average of 48 lbs/day of nitrogen in our discharge last month. We are keeping an average well below the 118 average limit, and look forward to another check from the DEEP this year.

5. As many of you may know, we received the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Modification approval from the DEEP that we have been working on. I have been working on this for over a year. My objective has been to convince the DEEP that we can accommodate increased BOD loading to our wastewater facility without jeopardizing effluent quality. The DEEP requires an enormous amount of conceptual information supported by data to do this. Finally, with the great relationship Brian Lynch has with the DEEP and with Wright-Pierce engineering stamp, we accomplished something that has great value for Montville. Simply put, the DEEP gave our treatment facility permission to treat an average of 30,000 Lbs/Day of BOD. This has been increased from the older value of 24,000 Lbs/Day. This has an estimated value of two Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR's) say north of \$15,000,000. This is a celebratory time for the Montville (WPCA)!
  
6. Many communities have been dealing with the challenges of high levels of Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) in their potable water. Dating back to 2014, Montville is no exception. As a result of past exceedances, Montville has entered into consent agreement with the Department of Health (DPH). Extensive testing and process control changes has yielded complaint and significantly reduced TTHM's from our sampling points, and we did it without costly infrastructure and equipment! Admittedly, it required a lot of trial and error to get resolve, as any small change in a water system can result I other changes not easily predictable. Chris Clark from the Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority (MTUA) has more than just helped to figure this puzzle out, as he serves as an ally. Working with him on many projects has significantly assisted our community very well. Once we made the operational flow changes to improve the TTHM's we had one more hurdle. To insure we did not negatively affect our ISO rating for fire protection to our system. Our Engineers, Wright-Pierce has performed system modeling on a previous project and had recently provided us with a technical memorandum regarding what will be required to not negatively affect our ISO rating or fire protection abilities. We need to install a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on Jerome Road. This valve will only open during a fire. The valve will let additional water enter from Route 32 into Jerome Road during a fire fighting event. Discussion to follow during meeting.
  
7. Our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system has afforded us the ability to closely examine the operation and trends of major equipment and sub systems. This includes our pumping activities to the Cook Drive potable water tank. Chris Clark and I have been working together on a more efficient way to operate the pumps that fill the Cook Drive potable water tank. Having the data from SCADA and looking deep into pump curves helps us determine when and how much water to pump resourcefully. This is being done in an effort to reduce demand for electricity. This analysis has given us the ability to understand how many gallons per minute (gpm) one pump can pump at respective tank

elevations. With this information, Chris can modify when and how much water he takes from the Cook Drive tank without our second big pump coming on. This will result in a significant reduction of electrical demand, thanks to the eagerness of Chris and the MTUA! The second component of our electric bill is the actual electrical consumption. This is being addressed by dropping the working levels in the Cook tank. One cannot merely drop levels without many important considerations. Storage and firefighting flows need to be thoroughly evaluated. Collectively, Chris and I have visited downstream users with sprinkler systems collecting valuable design information. We have worked with Montville's Fire Marshal, Ray Occhialini, carefully addressing his concerns as well. My intent is to have Wright-Pierce perform hydraulic modeling using all of our extensive field information, reports, and historical data to generate a technical memorandum for us. Once they check it out, we will employ the new on and off pump settings for the tank. After which, we will collect field recordings and flows to verify everything is as it is believed to be. **SUMMARY:** Reduction of electrical demand and electrical use. Improved water quality with reduced wear and tear of pumps and pipes. I will provide an update on the savings once new changes go into effect.

8. About 4 weeks ago, our turbo blower failed. The turbo blower is currently being backed up by a centrifugal blower that has been in use since 1997. This blower runs 24/7. Without air, SBR 5&6 will suffocate and die. The vendor has since come to evaluate the blower and provided a quote. We need to get a new Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at a cost of \$24,420 to get this turbo blower operational.

When speaking about Items #6 and #7 of his report, Superintendent Didato credited the "cooperative relationship" between him and Chris Clark for smoothing the way on these issues. He noted that Item #6 would be discussed under New Business. Superintendent Didato also highlighted the "very significant value" of Item #5 of his report, by offsetting spending for the two (2) SBR's to achieve more treatment capacity. Administrator Lynch recognized Superintendent Didato and the entire staff as a "good community."

**k.** Report from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel commented on Item #8 of Superintendent Didato's report concerning the turbo blower, recognizing the significant cost avoidance through a grant.

**l.** Report from special or sub-committees -- None

**m.** Report from Engineers

Administrator Lynch reported that Engineers are working on a bid package that the State is looking for regarding disinfectant chamber.

**n. Old Business**

1. Discussion of reducing the cost of connection to the public sewer system.

There was discussion about lowering the sewer connection fees. Bill Pieniadz of P & H Construction who spoke in favor of the proposed reduction in fees. Town Councilor Rogers asked if it would be possible for Administrator Lynch to look into and bring back to the Commission at its next meeting, the fees that local communities are currently charging.

2. Discussion on purchasing 1500 feet of piping that lines Rand-Whitney pipeline.

Discussion was held on purchasing the 1500 feet of piping. Rand-Whitney has put in its Capital Improvement Plan to line a portion of the discharge pipe. Administrator Lynch spoke about the length of time that it takes to order the pipe and thought it might be beneficial to have piping on hand. Town Councilor Rogers asked if Rand-Whitney was contacted to pay for the pipe instead WPCA. Administrator Lynch said he would call Rand-Whitney and discuss the option of them paying for it.

3. Discussion on the building of the pressure reducing valve and vault on Maple Avenue and Jerome Road.

Superintendent Didato explained to the Commission the need to install the pressure reducing vault. We are under a mandate by the DEEP Drinking Water Section to reduce the TTHM numbers in that area of the community. Superintendent Didato explained that this pressure reducing valve is the best option to achieve adequate fire protection. He has spoken to engineers and the Town's Fire Marshal about water pressure in that area and everyone is in agreement that there should not be any problems.

**o. New Business**

1. Discussion on the Exclusive Service Area in Montville.

Administrator Lynch reported that included in the meeting packet were maps that identifies the exclusive area in Montville serviced by Norwich Utilities.

2. To consider and act on a motion to set a public hearing date of March 5, 2018, at 5:30 for the purpose of reducing the sewer connection fees to the public sewer system.

Per discussion, this item was tabled until the next meeting. Administrator Lynch will obtain sewer connection fees from surrounding towns for comparison purposes.

3. To consider and act on a motion to commence construction of the pressure reducing valve and vault to be locate on Maple Avenue and Jerome Road.

Motion by Commissioner Thorn; seconded by Chairman to move Agenda Item 1.o.3 from the Water and Sewer Commission to the Water Commission, New Business. Motion retracted and item moved to Water Commission, II.e.2, per agreement.

p. Reports/referrals from Planning & Zoning -- *None*

q. Payment of bills

1. **THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to pay bills in the amount of Three Hundred Ninety Four Dollars and No cents (\$394.00), per attached Schedule B.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR NO. 2017-11 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to pay bills in the amount of Three Hundred Ninety Four Dollars and No cents (\$394.00), per attached Schedule B. Motion by Town Councilor Rogers; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: **Roll Call Vote, all in favor, Commissioners Murphy, Quinn, Siragusa, Thorn, and Town Council Liaison Rogers; 5-0. Motion approved.**

## II. **Water Commission**

a. Item a not listed on agenda.

b. Report from Sub-Committees-- *None*

c. Report from Engineers -- *None*

d. Old Business -- *None*

e. New Business

1. Discussion on the new Safe Drinking Water Primary Assessment fee.

Administrator Lynch reported that he and Commissioner Siragusa were working on the water budget with the aim to keep costs low. He also reported \$2,500 would be included in the budget for the assessment fee.

2. To consider and act on a motion to commence construction of the pressure reducing valve and vault to be located on Maple Avenue and Jerome Road. (*Moved from Water and Sewer Commission, New Business, Item O.3*)

Motion by Commissioner Thorn; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to commence construction of the pressure reducing valve and vault to be located on Maple Avenue and Jerome Road. Discussion: none. **Voice vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.**

f. Payment of bills -- *None*

**g.**     Remarks from the Public

Chairman Murphy asked three times for remarks. There were none.

**h.**     Remarks from Commission Members

Town Councilor Rogers thanked Administrator Lynch and Superintendent Didato for their commentary and feedback this evening and emphasized the need for transparency. Chairman Murphy received clarity on the Oxoboxo Lake Dam and its effect, if any, on Rand & Whitney which would only be problematic under drought conditions.

**i.**     Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Thorn, seconded by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Discussion, none. **Voice Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion approved and meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE.**