# Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission REGULAR MEETING MINUTES October 7, 2024-- 6:00 PM

### **Town Council Chambers – Town Hall**

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville WPCA rules of procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least 1 working day in advance (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Commission.

A three-minute limit is applicable to public comments within the meeting.

#### 1. Water and Sewer Commission

### a. Call to Order

Chairperson Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:02 p.m.

# **b.** Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

## c. Roll Call

Present were Chairperson Chuck Longton, Vice-Chair/Town Counselor Kevin Lathrop Commissioners Richard Gladue and Frank Miceli.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson, Administrator Ronald McDaniel and Mayor Leonard Bunnell (6:05 p.m.).

- **d.** Alterations to the Agenda -- None
- e. <u>Motion to approve the Discussion Minutes of August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting</u> (no meeting in September)

**Motion** by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to approve the Discussion Minutes of August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 4-0-0. Motion carried.** 

- **f.** <u>Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission</u> -- None
- g. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three-minute limit Chairperson Longton asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

### **h.** Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for activities in September 2024, as follows:

## 1.0 Compliance/Process

# 1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

No local or formal complaints were received regarding the collection system or the Montville Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

Average daily influent flow to the WPCF dampened (due to the lack of severe weather events) and was approximately 2.0 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total treatment volume of 64 million gallons (mg) for the month.

Each day, approximately 59% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB). The ability to divert reclaimed water greatly increases the utility's water portfolio.

Plant treatment was very good with permit parameters met. Process control within each unit (preliminary and secondary treatment) functioned well resulting in high removal efficiencies (> 95%) for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. Plant process (effluent) standards were record setting. Average Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent below the permit (loading) level with removal efficiency over 80%.

Thickened waste activated sludge (WAS) was calculated to have an approximately 6.0% total solid (TS) which is considered good.

### 1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards.

#### 2.0 Staff

# 2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries were reported by the WPCA staff. The vacant Mechanic position was filled with the hire of Gerard. Recent hires have been trained to be functioning members of the team.

## 2.2 Training

Staff continued to receive training to (state or professional organization sponsored) meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for (wastewater/water certification) training credits. The goal is to prepare the staff to do their jobs better and sit for additional certification exams.

# 3.0 Equipment

## 3.1 WPCF/Collection System

A WPCF project summary table is included in the submittal.

A good facility appearance assures our ratepayers that we are taking care of the infrastructure. Considerable effort is made to mow, trim and paint to maintain a good look of all parts of the plant and collection system.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are essential for maintaining and managing the utility infrastructure. All work is recorded in the GIS platform as an (inspection) attribute report to ensure its relevancy. The Superintendent has incorporated the GIS work into the utility's CIP process and procedures. The confidence of having a spatial reference for both the centralized portion of treatment (WPCF) as well as the conveyance system enhances project identification and tracking.

# 4.0 Projects

Asset management is a system that utilities use to anticipate when key assets must be replaced; it helps to serve better and remain in compliance with regulations. Asset management, however, is only useful if it leads to proactive asset replacements. A summary of existing projects is provided in an attached project summary table. Additionally, the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CIP lists are provided. A strong economy begins with robust utility performance. Our commitment to economic development goes beyond providing reliable water supply and sewerage; it extends to actively participating in and supporting the prosperity of the Town.

The water and wastewater utility is using geographic information system (GIS) technology, Esri's ArcGIS technology is the foundation (base map) to collect, display, and analyze data from various sources and leverage easy-to-use maps to provide quick access to upgrade or use information.

In an effort to lower costs associated with waste solids handling, thickening, transport and disposal, one SBR was converted to an aerobic digester. The digester allows for the waste solids (organisms) to feed on one another thus reducing total volumes. This alteration in process had led to long retention times whereas the microorganisms feed on themselves thus reducing sludge volumes. As such, the average daily trucking rate has been dropped to 2.6 trucks/day which is a record.

During recent inspections of sewer pipe in The Manor along Vermont Drive and Virginia Road, it was apparent that SCWA water lines breaches led to flow into the sewer pipes. Appropriate notifications were made.

### 4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

Routine maintenance was performed at WPCF and collections system. The intern program brought additional staff to assist specifically in the collection system work.

A force main break was observed on September 20. The emergency contractor was immediately notified with repairs completed the same day. Regulatory reporting was completed. A transition manhole on Connecticut Boulevard was repaired with grout and coating on September 12. Hydrogen sulfide had degraded support brick/mortar.

The d-box repair (engineering) project has received CTDEEP approval for grant fund use. Bidding was concluded on August 8. A contractor will be used to apply a structural coating to the existing subterranean (concrete) tanks to prevent further degradation by hydrogen sulfide. This project was initiated on September 25 and involves a significant bypass project.

The pipe support bridge above the Stony Brook was identified as failing. The Superintendent had worked with the WPCA Engineer (Wright-Pierce) to remedy the sewer/water main corrosion related to (road salt) exposure. The 50-foot Pipe Bridge (for the 16-inch (water) and 21-inch (sewer) pipes) is structurally compromised. New England Infrastructure, Inc. was found to be low bidder and will begin work with completion expected by end of September. The project has been coordinated with the CTDOT paving operations proposed for Route 32. A new project schedule has been reviewed with work begun on August 7 and completed on September 30.

CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) sewer inspections (of the 62 miles gravity sewers) were made in the priority areas to define Inflow and Infiltration (storm water and groundwater intrusion). The Manor and The Heights are target areas due to potential I and I problems. Targeted inspections of some of the 1,650 manholes in the collection system were made. In June and July and August, over 16,000 l.f. of sewer pipe was inspected and 500 manholes were examined.

As previously indicated, a replacement project is proposed for Cook Water Tower. The glass fused to steel construction is state of the art and represents a low maintenance option to conventional steel tanks. CTDPH staffs were met onsite on September 11 to observe the dome and first layer of wall construction. The project update meeting was held on September 18. Staff inspections of work were made throughout the month.

# 4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The Montville WPCF is required to meet state and federal standards for effluent discharged to the Thames River (Horton Cove). The WPCF adheres to the federal standards in the *National Pollution Discharge Elimination System* (NPDES) and state (general) permit standards related to nitrogen discharges in the effluent and stormwater discharges to surface water bodies. Additionally, state and federal mandates (CMOM- Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance) exist for care of the sewer collection system.

Required (monthly, quarterly or annual) discharge reporting is signed (certified) by the state-licensed CTDEEP *Operator IV* (Superintendent) in responsible charge of the designated *Class IV WPCF Facility*.

The certification required for the collection system is from a professional organization (NEWEA, *New England Water Environment Association*). The Superintendent has the highest certification required (Class IV) for both treatment and collections.

No regulatory oversight or action is ongoing for the WPCA. No existing *Consent Decrees* or *Consent Orders* currently exist. No formal reporting was required other than the typical monthly permit submittals. No complaints have been received from the appropriate regulatory bodies.

The existing federal WPCF (NPDES) effluent permit is expiring this year (October 31, 2024). The 5-year permit renewal package was submitted to the CTDEEP before April 30 as stipulated by the USEPA. Additional effluent sample analysis was completed as part of the renewal package. A review of the analytical results did not indicate concerns. The CTDEEP performed a preliminary review of the application for the permit renewal and found it to be sufficient.

Currently, there are no United States federal level regulations specifically for water reuse, including non-potable or indirect/direct potable reuse. Non-potable reuse regulations have historically been developed and implemented at the state and local level for decades.

DMR-QA 44 reports were released in late September 27. Results indicated several "Not Acceptable" evaluations. As such, Corrective Action (re-sampling) was taken to resolve the issue. As part of the "hardening" of water assets due to climate change (and higher incidence of severe weather), the CTDEEP has requested that the WPCA provide a summary of its collections system. On September 19, the Superintendent provided a table indicated information (i.e. coordinates, flow) of each pumping station within the wastewater collection system.

Lead pipes in public water systems and drinking fixtures have been banned in new home construction since 1986, when Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, in some older homes, services lines which are connected to the water mains may be made of lead. In addition, some faucets and plumbing fixtures in homes built before 1986 may also be made of lead. The Federal *Lead and Copper Rule Revisions* (LCRR) requires all community and non-transient non-community public water systems (PWS) to conduct materials inventory of the distribution system including water lines to all service connections supplied water by the PWS. This materials inventory must be completed and submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) by October 16, 2024. The Montville WS is currently compliant with the directive, but is working to improve the understanding of all materials used within the distribution system.

The USEPA is celebrating Cybersecurity Awareness Month in the Water Sector in October.

### 5.0 Development

Several inquiries for potential development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review/comment, including a proposed 57-unit residential development (226-2284 Route 32) and 47 Sharp Hill Road.

# 6.0 Financial

The WPCA operates with an *Enterprise Fund* which is operated like a private sector business account except it contains a goal target of zero-balance (year) ending. In other words, it is understood that a utility is a customer service business.

The FY 2024 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets began on July 1, 2023 and ended on June 30, 2024. The FY 2025 WPCA Sewer and Water Budget began on July 1, 2024.

The ability to receive septic wastewater and to divert reclaimed (recycle effluent) water greatly increases the utility's water portfolio. A septic receiving (cost) survey was completed by the Administrator. By increasing all categories by 25%, the WPCA would generate an estimated \$6,350 additional revenue per month based on this year's average to date. If we begin in January it should yield \$38,100 for this fiscal year and \$76,200 next year.

A Montville WS rate increase is necessary. The WPCA authorized rate study will consider the current reserve funds and the typical revenue received as compared to the costs increases

6

associated with several GU rate increases, inflation, and new water tower (as well as the unaccounted-for water). The WPCA Engineer has been consulted to establish a model to include many aspects of utility status and future needs. The study will likely indicate a need to include an increase in the quarterly rate along with a reduction of minimum water allotted. Commercial accounts will also be adjusted accordingly. Notification will be made on the WPCA website for public hearing. A formal notification for approval will be made to the Town Council. The last time the WS rates were increased was via *Resolution 2014-50* (July 1, 2014).

# 6.1 Accounts Review

Asset management is the process for maintaining a desired level of customer service at the appropriate cost and lowering asset risk.

#### 6.2 Assets

The WPCA will enhance its understanding of the WPCF and Water Supply assets with the permanent/inspection attributes positioned on the water and sewer GIS platforms. ArcGIS is the system of record for geospatial information and assets. The ArcGIS platform is in a unique position: It is both a system of record (permanent and inspection attributes) and a system of engagement for the operator/mechanics. They use it to collect, manage, and compile geospatial information in maps, which represent reality in a lucid way and allow for better analysis and more sound decision making.

As previously noted, the cost of depreciation is provided in utility spread sheets, but it is not an "out-of-pocket" expense. This data is an important portion of the four-part approach to asset management: planning, financial foresight, capital visibility, and data collection/review. A review was conducted of both water and sewer asset details to remove those no longer containing value. Old assets can be sold on third party websites (i.e. Municibid) leading to revenues.

## 6.3 Grants/Funding

Per existing contract, the WPCA is responsible for the upkeep of the RWCB discharge and recycle water lines. As indicated in previous meetings, the (approximately \$3 million) replacement/repair pipe project was completed in August 2024. The Montville WPCA financed the project, but will be repaid at a rate of \$200,000 per year.

Some current wastewater projects are funded by State funds including one grant (CTDEEP \$5 million *Grant-in-Aid for Sewage Treatment Facility Infrastructure Improvements and Upgrades at the Montville WPTF-* State Grant Agreement 2017-170491, approved via March 2014 Town of Montville Resolution No. 2014-25). The bonds were for infrastructure improvements within the plant including the new chlorine system, new recycling pumps, influent flow distribution boxes and grit removal system. Additionally, the aeration systems for SBR-1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were replaced.

One bond was paid in July 2018 and another was paid in February 2019; thus, reducing debt service by at least \$150,000-\$200,000 per year. The remaining two bonds will be paid in August 2032 (headworks upgrade) and July 2034 (new emergency power generator), respectively.

Based on a review of the WPCA's Eligibility Application the CTDPH DWS had determined that the Cook Water Tower replacement project was ready to proceed and that DWSRF funding will be available. The Finance Director was notified of the intent to pursue federal funding for the tower project. The scheduled completion date of the storage tank is October 31, 2024. A Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF No. 2024-7125) loan agreement package for \$1,360,332.50 was signed by the Mayor on August 30 for the *Cook Hill Tank Replacement Project* (CTDPH Agreement #2024-7125). Reimbursements for WPCA expenditures have been received on a timely basis. The repayment is scheduled for a 20-year amortization with a 2% rate.

A MTUA loan balance remains on the (not amortized) loan defined in the December 10, 2007 Reimbursement Agreement by and between The Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority and Town of Montville. The original principal of the note for extending the water utility into the Town was \$2,642,792. The current balance is around \$500,000 which is paid down when connection fees are collected.

## 6.4 Energy

Generally, a decrease in plant energy demand has been observed associated with the (more controlled) lower dissolved oxygen (DO) settings (as compared to last year at this time) in the process tanks due to the new fine-bubble diffusers as well as the new (more efficient) turbo blowers. In, the Administrator/Superintendent met with Dan Joyce of Balanced Rock Energy (WPCA Energy Broker) to review current and future contract conditions. It is likely the generation cost will rise over 50% for the next contract due to market conditions.

The (electrical) energy is the single largest monthly expenditure. Electrical Energy is supplied to the plant by the 460 kW Doosan Fuel Cell America, Inc. fuel cell (onsite generation by Unit #10587), Eversource (transmission) and First Point Power (generation). The power generation was formerly supplied by Constellation Energy. The WPCA is using less public grid kWhs due to this onsite generation. Typically, the Pure Cell (400 kW) unit is the best performing unit of its kind in Connecticut and provides over 90% of the energy required by the WPCF; thus, 90% of the electrical energy that does not have the higher transmission charge. July and August showed some lower production of the fuel cell due to equipment failures. The recent contract with the energy broker (Balanced Rock Energy) defines the new electrical costs with an approximate 35% increase (rising from \$0.06114 to \$0.09136 per kWh). An increase to the Public Benefits portion (cost) of Eversource bill (for state-mandated and approved energy programs, policies and initiatives) took effect.

In March 2023, the Montville WPCA and Town signed a 20-year solar service agreement with N. Silver Brook, LLC- a Montville based renewable energy company. The agreement will save the Town of Montville more than \$850,000 and is structured for the town to receive the full savings amount within one year of the solar facility's completion. N. Silver Brook and its partners allocated solar energy from a Connecticut solar project in Naugatuck to the WPCA's electrical accounts. On June 9th, that project was selected as a winning bid in Connecticut's *Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions* (NRES) program. All of the WPCA's electrical usage was assigned to the winning bid and will result in lower energy costs. The Hunters Mountain #1 project's Petition and Siting Council documents are in preparation, and almost complete. MLG is still waiting to hear back from Eversource on the *Interconnection Application* (which is undergoing a transmission study). The developer (TRITEC) estimates *Permission to Operate* (PTO) will be achieved in Q4 2025.

Superintendent Albertson summarized highlights from his report concerning compliance and process of influent and effluent and responded to questions of the Commission concerning the trucks hauling sludge which are fewer and only come as needed.

# i. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel submitted his report of activities for September 2024 as follows:

- The RWCB lines are all installed and tied in and functional. We will leave the bypass in place temporarily for the Distribution Box Project. All the defunct and non-operational flushing hydrants have been removed on Maple Avenue. Public Works repaired from Pequot Road to Route 32. Prime Electric will repair manholes the week of 10/14.
- The Stony Brook bridge project is substantially complete and should be wrapped up in the next 2 weeks.
- Prime Electric has repaired all the manholes and service connections affected by the Route 32 paving project.
- Savy & Sons successfully completed a sewer manhole rehabilitation on Connecticut Boulevard. A bypass was in place for the days of work without incident.
- There was a sewer force main break adjacent to the Holly Hill Pump Station (in front of the health center at the casino on 9/20. Our team and B&W responded immediately, established a bypass, excavated, found the source, made repairs and secured the roadway. We still have to repair the whole area to a full 9" depth by order of the DOT.
- We continue work with Wright-Pierce regarding the Lead Service Line (LSL) inventory project. The inventory is due for submission on October 16, 2024. We are down to a manageable number of "unknowns" and will be ready to submit report to DPH within the proscribed timeline next week.

- Savy & Sons was the only bidder on the Distribution Box Project at \$703,137 with an alternate add-on for removal of the inoperable gate valve of \$11,600 for a total of \$714,637. Bypass is being built out and work is scheduled to begin next week. We have coordinated with Rand Whitney for the bypass.
- The Septage Receiving Station upgrades have been ordered and the design was reviewed by staff. Estimated delivery date is still on schedule for late November.
- We continue to hold regular monthly Cook Drive Water Tower meetings. The tank is constructed and is being readied for testing, disinfecting and commissioning. Survey work is completed for the Eversource easements and we hope to finalize these soon.
- With staff input we executed a new maintenance contract for large ticket electrical items like motors and controls. This will result in some savings and a better accessibility to parts and replacement upgrades.
- We experienced a pump failure at Avery I Pump Station. Pump was replaced and spare is being rebuilt.
- We continue to add valuable inspection data to our GIS system and our inspection program has yielded many benefits such as an illegal hookup and SCWA leaks.
- We made some changes to our website with input from staff. This will be a work in progress to make it more user friendly for our customer base. One addition we are working on is an Autopay function.
- We continue data gathering for the water rate study. We expect that we will need to raise rates to cover escalating supply costs, water tower loan repayment and ongoing system maintenance.
- We completed a Septage Rate Survey and we are very low on our rates. AGENDA ACTION ITEM

Administrator McDaniel gave an overview of his monthly report and also referenced preparation for substantial CIP items. Superintendent Albertson reported on the hire of Gerard Manfredi described as exceptional and highly skilled as well as extensive training with staff for upcoming certifications. The Administrator responded to Commissioner Gladue concerning the completion of the additional 15% of the line for Rand-Whitney; he remarked the line was in pretty good shape and on the detail of the agreement between the entities.

# j. Report from Mayor

Mayor Bunnell commended the WPCA workers for its quick response to the recent water main break and contact by the Fire Department to upgrade to 800 band and possible use of the old tank on a temporary basis. The Mayor had no comment to Commissioner Gladue as whether the tank would be painted given the one on Maple Drive has been there for 163 years.

## **k.** Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported the Rand-Whitney line replacement job was done without engineers; compliments were given to those involved. He referenced notification submittal to the State within 30 days on the same and added there are no lead pipes in the Town system as it is too young.

# l. <u>Old Business</u> -- None

## m. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the 25% Cost Increase to the WPCF Septic Receiving.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to increase the WPCF Septage Dumping Fees to 25% to improve Revenues, as current fees are well below market levels and in the best interest of the Town to raise WPCA revenues by approximately \$70,000 annually.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

### SAR-No. 2024-14 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to increase the WPCF Septage Dumping Fees to 25% to improve Revenues, as current fees are well below market levels and in the best interest of the Town to raise WPCA revenues by approximately \$70,000 annually. Motion by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: The Commission discussed the increase from \$60 to \$75 per gallon average although the average in the area is \$81.37. Some facilities will not take trucks and non-CDL trucks are seen several times a day. The \$150,000 upgrade to the system scheduled for November was discussed as staff are babysitting the system and pumping into manholes. After two (2) years, it is expected the upgrade will increase revenue. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Gladue, Lathrop, Longton, Miceli. *Opposed*: none. Vote 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.

2. To Consider and Act on the Appropriation of Monies for costs to complete the Rehabilitation of Two Concrete Distribution Boxes. Current Grant Funds will cover 50% of the cost.

Motion - Discussion - Roll Call Vote

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES TO Consider and Act to Appropriate \$300,000 in Monies (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars above the existing Grant Funds) to complete Repairs to Two Distribution Boxes. The former engineering report for this equipment indicated a dire need for repair or replacement, as it is in the best interest of the Town. Formal bidding was completed for the work.

SAR-No. 2024-15 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to Appropriate \$300,000 in Monies (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars above the existing Grant Funds) to complete Repairs to Two Distribution Boxes. The former engineering report for this equipment indicated a dire need for repair or replacement, as it is in the best interest of the Town. Formal bidding was completed for the work. **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue. Discussion: The concrete subterranean structures of the d-boxes was explained in addition to the initial engineering study for replacement at \$3 million plus; but a secondary option was proposed and put out to bid to braid the surface of the concrete and apply a 2-ply adherent to seal it. Funds left over from the grant of \$400,000 were to be used for this project as the cost was perceived to be \$500,000. Superintendent Albertson noted it is not known if all the funds will be used but the d-boxes must be repaired or they will fail. A bypass with Rand-Whitney and the casino will complete the project. A longrange CIP over a 10-year period is being reviewed per Administrator McDaniel and the temporary fix is expected to last for 5-7 years. Roll Call vote: In favor: Gladue, Lathrop, Longton,

3. To Consider and Act on the Hire of a Work-Based Learning (WBL) Technical High School Student for the Fall and Spring Semesters.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to hire the former summer intern (Grasso Technical High School Student William Dudley, Senior) as part of an apprentice program (WBL) for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 and allocate funds not to exceed \$9,000 (Nine Thousand Dollars).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Votes

Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.

SAR-No. 2024-16 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to hire the former summer intern (Grasso Technical High School Student William Dudley, Senior) as part of an apprentice program (WBL) for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 and allocate funds not to exceed \$9,000 (Nine Thousand Dollars). Motion by Commission Gladue; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop. Discussion: Superintendent

Albertson explained that student W. Dudley worked part-time during the summer as part of a workbased program at Grasso Tech and this field is what he wants to do. The Superintendent has worked on this program for the past six (6) years and applauded that the student can graduate from high school at 18 years old with a solid work plan for his future. Over the summer, student Dudley has viewed 15,000 miles of lines and 500-plus manholes in the Town. Administrator McDaniel gave kudos to the Superintendent noting that no one goes into this field; but the program teaches students the system and process and gets them interested at a young age. Student Dudley was described as "into it," engaged, does not complain, is polite, has good manners and is great with the public. The question was asked as to whether student Dudley would be hired to work at the plant; it was "yes" if there was a position as the staff at the plant like him. The Superintendent also reported that student Dudley has taken three (3) correspondence courses, can do lab testing, and can be relied on to operate the camera system and interpret data. Discussion concluded with finding a way to hire the student, his potential hire by other companies, and water/waste courses the student can take at college. Roll Call vote: In favor: Gladue, Lathrop, Longton, Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved. The good, strong Plant team with four (4) new hires in the last 18 months was noted.

**n.** Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning -- None

### **II.** Water Commission

## a. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson remarked that everything had been discussed and there are no concerns to report. Commissioner Miceli commented on online posts concerning brown water. Per discussion, the State has exclusive water areas and to intrude requires consent. The Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority ("SCWA") controls the water there and is granted exclusive area that they own. Any complaints should therefore be directed to SCWA.

## **b.** Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel reported that the Cook Hill water tower will be investigated tomorrow by the EPA concerning American Steel for projects. The last certification was received today on the rebar and the generator was delivered last week.

- c. Report from Engineers -- None
- **d.** Old Business -- None
- e. New Business -- None

### **f.** Reports from SCWA.

Chairperson Longton reported SCWA has not meet but there may be another opening—Commissioner Lathrop knows of two (2) individuals who may be interested.

### III. Remarks

### a. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute time limit

Chairperson Longton asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

# **b.** Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Miceli remarked on construction projects that are completed in the fall and recognized the job in getting it done. Commissioner Gladue is nervous about the Stony Brook project and the bypass; Administrator McDaniel asked if the Commission wished to come see it. Administrator McDaniel appreciated the kind words and remarked that he and Superintendent Albertson work well together. Mayor Bunnell echoed the comments of Administrator McDaniel

Town of Montville -- Water and Sewer Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024 Page 10 of 10

concerning the compatibility of the Superintendent and the Administrator working together and not having to deal with issues concerning the WPCA and the PD.

## c. <u>Adjournment</u>

**Motion** by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0-0. **Meeting adjourned.** 

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.