

**Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 6, 2025-- 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 6:24 p.m.

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**c. Roll Call**

Present was Chairperson Chuck Longton, Frank Miceli and Deane Terry. Vice-Chair/Town Counselor Kevin Lathrop and Commissioner Richard Gladue were absent.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson, Administrator Ronald McDaniel, Mayor Leonard Bunnell and Wright-Pierce Engineering Strategic Funding Manager Jessica Richard and Regional Group Leader Mariusz Jedrychowski.

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

**e. Motion to approve the Discussion Minutes of the December 2, 2024 Regular Meeting**

**Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to approve the Discussion Minutes of the December 2, 2024 Regular Meeting. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0. Motion carried.**

**f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission -- 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 December 2024, as follows:

**1.0 Compliance/Process**

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### 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 was approximately 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total treatment volume of 60 million gallons (mg) for the month.

Each day, approximately 55% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB).

Generally, plant treatment was 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. Average Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent below the permit (loading) level. ATMR (quarterly) sampling/analysis was conducted in December. Some increase in influent volume was noted during two December storm events resulting in some solids carryover in the effluent.

Thickened waste activated sludge (WAS) was calculated to be approximately 5.5% total solid (TS) which is considered good due to volume reduction (lower truck hauls/disposal tonnage). The annual disposal contract with the MDC (Hartford, CT) was renewed on December 17. Grit disposal will be out-of-state after January 1, 2025.

### 1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. The WPCA celebrates the 50-year anniversary of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. In 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the, the first piece of legislation of its kind to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for overseeing the nation's drinking water supply. The law has proven instrumental in setting standards for ensuring that the U.S. population can access drinking water that is safe.

## **2.0 Staff**

### 2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries were reported by the WPCA staff. It is important that staff know they have the authority to stop work and report a hazard during a job. Between 2020 and 2022, Connecticut work zones experienced 2,566 vehicle crashes. The utility frequently performs road work. Consequently, flagger training along with job specific "tail gate" safety reviews are conducted to prevent the potential for danger.

December 3 was the *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*, an annual event that began in 1992. The United Nations (UN) recognizes this day to promote awareness and support for the rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. The WPCF established a better (marked) handicapped parking area adjacent to the wheel chair ramp.

Deane Terry was appointed to the SCWA.

### 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.

C. N. Wood personnel conducted onsite jet/vac truck training on December 3. Lock Out/Tag Out training for new employees was conducted on December 4. Diane Johnson conducted math tutoring prior to the CTDEEP operator exams in January 2025.

First Aid, CPR and AED training along with *Stop the Bleed* training is scheduled for January 24.

Winter storm season is here. The staff prepare by following the emergency plan (i.e. slip/trip prevention, emergency generator O & M).

Disconnected employees, burnout, high turnover — today's challenges to employee engagement are real. The Superintendent is exploring strategies to build a resilient, future-proof workforce. Front-line workers are valued more than ever. The Brookings Institute estimates that up to 40% of water jobs will be vacated in the next 7 years. Recruitment and retention are the keys to keeping

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the Montville WPCA staffed. To do this, the Town, Unions and Administration must understand the existing wage climate and the need to advance personnel.

As indicated previously, the Superintendent continues to work with technical schools to encourage young people to pursue a career in the water industry. Currently, Norwich Tech is receiving raw wastewater for analysis. A Grasso Tech student is employed as an intern. The intern work includes various activities, all tied to technical standard of learning requirements for the grade level and coinciding with the educators' curriculum.

### **3.0 Equipment**

#### **3.1 WPCF/Collection System**

Water management infrastructure in America is aging, with many wastewater plants and collection systems remaining largely unaltered since being installed around a century ago. The WPCA has been aggressive in identifying and improving weak links within the utility. A WPCF project summary table is included in the submittal.

Dealing with baby, disinfectant and personal care wipes that have been flushed down toilets is a costly burden for U.S. water systems, resulting in clogs and increased maintenance expenses that a report from the *National Association of Clean Water Agencies* estimates costs the sector and extra \$441 million annually. The Administrator has included information to be included in the billing to prevent the improper discharge of rags to the sewer system.

Part of the air distribution system for SBR-2 failed on December 17. Staff responded and repaired the broken parts and placed the tank back online. The new septic receiving station arrived onsite on December 4.

On a daily basis, the WPCF and collection systems transmit data to the operators via existing sensors and communication with the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) software (Factory Talk View by Rockwell Automation) read via a computer- HMI, human machine interface). Alarm notification is a critical function of SCADA and has been fine-tuned by the mechanics/operators to limit false or insignificant alarms. Additionally, SCADA has been linked with XLReporting to download monthly data for retrieval for regulatory reporting. A technician was onsite on December 17 and 18 to correct communication from the influent meter to the SCADA recording software.

A lot of the plant monitoring equipment (sensors) is supplied by The HACH Company. Hach manufactures and distributes analytical instruments and reagents used to test the quality of water. The systems are designed to simplify analysis by instrumentation, portable laboratory equipment, prepared reagents, easy-to-follow methods, and technical support. Typically, the bench or in-situ analysis occurs using HACH probes. The Superintendent is exploring a data management system (Rio™ from AquaInformatics) for faster data retrieval and manipulation. Hach WIMST™ (Water Information Management System) that replaces Excel, automates reporting, and real-time data analysis for a full-field view of operations both at the plant and in the collection system.

Utilities rely heavily on automated systems and digital tools to manage infrastructure and maintain operations, but with increased connectivity comes a higher risk of cyberattacks. Cybersecurity challenges include awareness and costs. The *Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency* (CISA) and the FBI aim to assist utilities to identify problems and offer support to secure systems. No legislation controls exist in the U.S. at this time. Most problems are related to insider threats (human error, stolen credentials, and malicious actors) with devices connected to the internet. Several years ago, the Superintendent worked with a contractor to assess current exposure conditions and enact appropriate responses such as supporting a no network facility, fire walls, securing PLCs and managing/monitoring insider privileges. The December 2024 Connecticut Intelligence Center recently provided insight into cyber security.

### **4.0 Projects**

#### **4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply**

This year's winter COVID wave is off to a later start than usual, and some experts are warning about a potential "silent" surge in transmission over the next month- "silent" because there was less COVID activity than usual this past fall, so many people are unaware that rates have sharply risen according to the most recent data on COVID activity in wastewater from the CDC show.

Aging infrastructure and delayed maintenance can be problematic so routine inspections with a robust CIP programs are directed at the WPCF and collections system. Initial assessment studies of the treatment/collections systems were completed in 2010 and 2011 and lead to CIP focus on several areas for improvement.

The d-box repair (engineering) project has received CTDEEP approval for grant fund use. Bidding was concluded on August 8. A contractor applied a structural coating to the existing (concrete) tanks to prevent further degradation by hydrogen sulfide. This project was initiated on September 25 and completed in November. Extensive grit removal was accomplished from the distribution boxes and piping concurrent to the restoration project on December 2 and 3. The grit removal was necessary to proper flow to each treatment basin.

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). High priority areas were identified in the URS 2010 and 2011 reporting and included: The Manor, Chesterfield Estates and The Heights as well as residential development along Lathrop Road, Hotchkiss Lane, and Woodland Drive. Targeted inspections of some of the 1,650 manholes in the collection system were made. In 2024, over 16,500 l.f. of sewer pipe was inspected and 550 manholes were examined. Routine maintenance inspections are made of all the lift stations.

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. Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) visited the WPCF and Cook Tower project site.

#### 4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The Montville WPCF and associated collection system 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. Formal notifications in federal or state registers would document any regulatory action. No formal reporting was required other than the typical monthly permit submittals and alerts due to a process tank (SBR-2) taken offline for repairs and some TSS observed in the effluent. A data review was conducted for BOD loading (for the last 10 years) to determine permit compliance. No complaints have been received from the appropriate regulatory bodies or ratepayers.

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. A NPDES permit is a license for a facility to discharge a specified amount of a pollutant into receiving waters under certain conditions (action level concentration, etc.). The Clean Water Act prohibits discharging pollutants into waters of the United States without an NPDES permit. The NPDES permit program is authorized by the USEPA (in our case Region I- Boston, MA) and state governments to enforce. As indicated previously, climate change represents a challenge to WPCFs due to sea level rise and increase heavy storm events. After 2023, some Region I (renewed for MA and NH) NPDES permits are required to have a climate adaption plans (CAPs) to help prepare for the potential changing conditions and enhance resilience.

A formal CMOM document (wastewater collection/conveyance system management) was prepared by the Superintendent (and reviewed by the CTDEEP in 2019).

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 American Water Works Association has (AWWA) filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements rule, citing insufficient funding to replace all drinking water lines containing lead by 2037. The Montville WS is currently compliant with the initial directive and has not identified lead pipes but is working to improve the understanding of all materials used within the distribution system.

## **5.0 Development**

Several inquiries for potential residential development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review/comment, including two along Route 32, one near Carol Drive and one on Maple Avenue. The Planning and Zoning Department approved residential developments- Shantock Village (200 units) and Horizon View (57 units). Numerous meetings were held to assist developers with the proposed work and connections to sewer/water.

## **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.

In an uncertain rate environment, the right strategy will protect our business-like account from unpredictability and uncertainty. As indicated, rate increases are necessary. The WPCA will rely on appropriate engineering rate studies to evaluate your needs and make necessary adjustments to gain better control over liquidity and minimize risk.

### **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.

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. A cursory review of the first quarter budget did not indicate concerns.

The ability to receive septic wastewater and to divert (sell) reclaimed (recycle effluent) water greatly increases the utility's water (cash) portfolio. It is anticipated that a rate increase will occur in 2026 for sewer.

A Montville Sewer and WS rate increase is necessary. Initially, the WPCA will evaluate a rate study for the Water Supply (WS) then the sewer.

The WPCA authorized WS rate study considered the current reserve funds and the typical revenue received as compared to the costs increases 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. 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).

### **6.2 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 specific information of the utility 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

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better analysis and more sound decision making. Ease of use has been considered after defining roles, base map evaluation, administration and future considerations.

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 via the Reserve Fund, but will be repaid at a rate of \$200,000 per year.

Some current wastewater projects were 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 grant monies were used for infrastructure improvements within the plant including the new chlorine system, new recycling pumps, restoration of the influent flow distribution boxes and grit removal system. Additionally, the aeration systems for SBR-1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were replaced. Vincenzo Gagliardi, Accountant for the CTDEEP Bureau of Central Services, funds for the grant have now been exhausted. Wright-Pierce was met to discuss specific grant funding from the CTDEEP for collection system studies/projects.

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

Between 30 and 40% of total municipal energy consumption is due to water treatment. Typically, 40% or more of a budget can be related to energy. The management team ensures each operator is familiar with energy savings and work towards “buy in” for efficiency strategies. Currently, it appears to be working- approximately 15% of the total wastewater budget is directed to 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.

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. 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. Additional cost increases will be seen in December 2024.

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 reported that the Plant had a good calendar year and there was good process for the past 12 months that ended strong. The sludge removal contract with MDC in Hartford was approved. The recent hire is sitting for the State Operator tests this month. CIP items were completed with only a few remaining. There were no reportable accidents and thanks to Administrator McDaniel all OSHA issues were addressed, and none are open now.

i. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel submitted his report of activities in December 2024 as follows:

- The Stony Brook bridge project is complete and we are finalizing retainage payment.
- The Distribution Box Project is completed. We had a couple of change orders that resulted in a total of \$814,109. One change was to increase the volume metrics of the bypass to account for maximum potential flow. The other 2 were for excess grit removal from the boxes and additional grit removal from the distribution channels. The DEEP grant that we secured in 2017 had \$613,221.27 remaining and was designated for this project. We are completing the closeout paperwork of the grant for the State.
- The Septage Receiving Station unit has been delivered and the crew is readying it for installation. New septage rates take effect this month.
- We are obtaining a quote for the replacement of the pump system at the Chesterfield Pump Station. We are evaluating our options.
- We assisted the Town with drainage inspections as they cleaned the storm water system.
- We changed vendors for our credit card processing and now the fees will be borne by the customer and no longer subsidized by the Authority.
- We have received a couple of good applicants for the open Wastewater Operator position and will evaluate over the coming weeks.
- We continue to hold regular monthly Cook Drive Water Tower meetings. The tank is constructed and is being readied for testing, disinfecting and commissioning. We have made contact with the three (3) property owners from which Eversource is requiring easements. They are drafted and have been sent to them and I am awaiting their approval and execution.
- 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.
- A new meter was installed on Peter Avenue to more accurately register the water coming from Groton to aid in consumption analysis.

Administrator McDaniel reported that the Stony Brook Bridge project is complete pending finalizing the numbers for the final accounting. Septage receiving is plumbed and ready and the new rates approved in October began this month. The Administrator responded to Commissioner Miceli on the progress on the intern this year; the intern is in his final year of high school.

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**j.      Report from Mayor – No report**

**k.      Report from Engineers**

Superintendent Albertson reported on the process of existing permits; a climate change evaluation may need to be done particularly in flood zone areas; and Administrator McDaniel and he are working with a contractor concerning cybersecurity—the system is good and there have been no attacks. He also reported on waste water projects funded by State grants that were extended and facilitated rebuilding sections of the Plant, and all funds were spent in a timely manner.

**l.      Old Business -- None**

**m.      New Business -- None**

**n.      Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning – No report**

**II.   Water Commission**

**a.      Report from Operations**

Superintendent Albertson reported that two (2) water operators keep track of profiles and deviations, and nothing has been found to be unusual. The new water meter was installed and is the same as the one at Groton Utilities.

**b.      Report from Administration**

Administrator McDaniel reported that quarterly reading of properties must be done noting that some are vacant. He also reported on call with a McDonald’s representative in Chicago—if there is no heat at the building and the water is on there will be a problem. The Administrator also remarked on the power issue at the Cook Water Tower and the status of the easements that is holding up the project. He spoke of deed restrictions and having redrafted the easements and sent them to the Town Attorney for review prior to sending them on to the land owners. Commissioner Miceli remarked about the possible need to do a single phase as the project must be done by April—Administrator McDaniel remarked that Eversource wants these easements in their name and this issue has been ongoing since last April.

**c.      Report from Engineers**

Superintendent Albertson introduced the guests from Wright-Pierce noting that he and Administrator McDaniel have been working with them concerning the proposed water rate increase. He noted that we should be able to support an operating budget without increase that is not currently feasible. The Superintendent and the Administrator meet today with Wright-Pierce and the Commission was presented a handout to move the utility forward. Strategic Funding Manager (“SFM”) Richard reviewed the slides concerning the water increase with the Commission noting the following: (1) the water operating budget expenditures from FY2024 – FY 2030 exceeds revenues; (2) the current WPCA water rate for an annual cost of 90,000 gallons in comparison to other utilities in the area; (3) GU rate increases from 2014-2017, twelve in total, while the WPCA last had one in 2014; (4) the decrease in WPCA customer water consumption from FY2017 to FY2022 attributed to low flow shower heads and toilets, casino evaporation cooling in summer month that only just reached pre-Covid levels (it was noted prison water used is included in the consumption comparison); (5) trends showing a decrease of water use from 1950-2015; (6) WPCA Groton Utilities water fee estimation from FY2020 of \$897,077 – FY2030 of \$1,238,213; (6) WPCA historic revenue results--rate revenue requirement at a high of \$1,425,699 per rate revenue received estimated at approximately \$1 million for FY2020 – FY2024 versus that same data with the inclusion of the percentage of revenue requirement, a variable of -22% in FY 2020, -14% in FY 2021 to -35% in FY 20204; (7) WPCA projected revenues with no rate increase to FY2030 showing depletion of the reserves beginning in 2026; (8) WPCA projected water reserve fund balance with no rate increase that shows an annual water fund deficit FY2020 – FY2030 that would be at \$1,078,104; and (9) WPCA projected revenues with a breakeven rate increase with a 25% water fund reserve that in FY2030 with a steady water operating budget and water reserve fund balance. Discussion by the Commission included payment with water reserves



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(the WPCA savings account); the lack of an energy standard that used to be 25% and the proposal in favor of the last slide, WPCA projected revenues with a breakeven rate increase with a 25% water fund; Town development that has increased revenues; the goal to go to 2030 an reexamination for possible rate increase; factoring in the increased cost of materials; and proposed WPCA rate increases of 30%, 30%, 10%, 10%, 2%, and 2% until FY2030. Also discussed was determining the most efficient plan and that only have 500 houses for water use as 2/3 of the Town uses SCWA or has wells. Procedural measures for the proposed water increase that includes consideration by the Town Council, public hearings, and approval by the Town Council. If proposed water rates are too high, the Town would have to provide funds and increased water revenue would come from connection fees for businesses that use water—car washes, breweries, and laundromats. Connection fees help satisfy the debt with the casino

**MOTION** by Chairperson Longton, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to approve the recommendation of a water rate increase as proposed by Wright-Pierce Engineering, WPCA projected revenues with a breakeven rate increase with a 25% water fund for FY2024 – FY2030; and to forward the motion to the Montville Town Council to schedule a Public Hearing and act on the motion. Discussion: The water rate increase would be approved to FY2030, a 5-year plan, to be implemented July 1, 2025. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Chairperson Longton, Commissioners Terry and Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. MOTION APPROVED.*** Administrator McDaniel will prepare the motion for forwarding to the Town Council.

d. Old Business -- None

e. New Business -- None

f. Reports from SCWA

It was reported that Commissioner Terry has been approved by the Town Council to serve on the board of the SCWA.

### III. **Remarks**

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

Chairperson Longton asked three (3) times for remarks. Mayor Bunnell has met with local legislators to arrange a meeting with SCWA to discuss a plan for road work and funds for the road repairs. Chairperson Longton suggested that Eversource be included in the discussion as well.

b. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Terry asked about SCWA, and it was explained it has seven (7) subsystems of local wells. Mayor Bunnell noted that the Town Council is meeting next week, and a date will be set for the public hearing for the water rate increase. Administrator McDaniel asked to be informed of that date so the Wright-Pierce consultant can be present. The water rate increase handout from this meeting will be given to the Town Council by Mayor Bunnell. Superintendent Albertson and Administrator McDaniel also plan to attend the meeting.

c. Adjournment

**MOTION** by Chairperson Longton; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0. MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

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