

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 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 6:03 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson, Administrator Ronald McDaniel, and Mayor Leonard Bunnell.

d. Alterations to the Agenda

Administrator McDaniel reported on an emergent request from Mayor Bunnell concerning funding for the boat launch. The Town had set aside funding in addition to the grant funding from DEEP, but funds remained short. When the boat launch project first began, the WPCA generously offered to pay some expenses as it uses the boat launch to access the cove to check outflows and to be a good neighbor to the Town. It agreed to help pay some costs for lighting and security or something to that effect. With hard costs obtained, the Mayor has asked for \$100,000 from the WPCA for the project. This item will be added to the Agenda as Item A under New Business.

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop to approve funding from the WPCA toward the Town boat launch in the amount of \$100,000; and added to the Agenda as New Business, Item M.A. Discussion: none. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Chairperson Longton, Commissioners Lathrop, Terry. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.***

e. Motion to approve the Discussion Minutes of the February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop to approve the Discussion Minutes of the February 3, 2025 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 February 2025, 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 was approximately 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total treatment volume of 68 million gallons (mg) for the month. Each day, approximately 40% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB).

Overall, plant treatment was good with permit (effluent) parameters met. Average concentrations of BOD₅, TSS, and Total Nitrogen (TN) loading were discharged in the treated effluent below the permit levels.

Thickened waste activated sludge (WAS) was calculated to be approximately 5.5% total solid (TS) which is considered good for waste volume reduction (lower truck hauls/disposal tonnage).

1.2 Water Supply

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

2.0 Staff

Primary and secondary interviews were conducted for the vacant Operator I position. Chadwick Cota was the leading candidate and will start on March 17.

In an era when employee retention has become a critical issue across industries, the water sector faces unique challenges and opportunities. Prepared or not, water managers must adjust their thinking and approach in an area they have not had to think about for some time — recruiting and retaining invaluable members of the sector.

Diversity is a goal for the Montville WPCA for the ability to establish a broad range of skills, abilities and experiences for effective problem solving. Despite the recent momentum, two-thirds of the U.S. water workforce is white and 85% is male (Brookings Institute, 2018). February 11 was *International Day of Women and Girls in Science* and raises awareness of the many challenges women and girls around the world face within the STEM disciplines.

2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries were reported by the WPCA staff.

2.2 Training

Staff continued to receive training (state or professional organization sponsored) to meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for (wastewater/water certification) training credits.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

The WPCF FY 2025 CIP and project summary table are included in the submittal.

4.0 Projects

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

Eversource was contacted by Paul Barnes, Fire Marshal to ensure priority status for the natural gas supply to the WPCF (fuel cell).

.....
A SCADA operational review was conducted on February 19 with the assigned Woodard & Curran Project Engineer. Focus was on flow accounting into the plant from RWCB. A workstation computer review was conducted on February 20 to confirm upgrade requirements for the new Microsoft platform and Office Suite and Microsoft Windows 10 support end (October 2025).

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). Routine maintenance inspections are made of all the lift stations. While jetting of sewer lines is made when necessary, “flushing” is considered the best option. This less intrusive cleaning operation pushes solids out of lines (toward the WPCF).

The growth of community utility coupled with the evolution of regulatory standards, business requirements, and community needs over the years posed significant challenges for the WPCA. Utilities globally manage large value assets, requiring powerful tools to maintain the networks effectively. GIS mapping enables utilities to model, visualize, and analyze systems with precision, capturing the complexities and improving overall performance as well as document work completed. The visualization of work activities based on various criteria—including geographic areas, asset type, class and priority, task and crew assignments, capital investments, and asset condition—enables the Superintendent to quickly produce dashboards and reports for optimized planning and decision-making.

Wastewater-based surveillance is promoted by the CDC which coordinates sample collection and analysis. The Montville WPCA was an early participant beginning in September 2020 (soon after the COVID Epidemic). Today, the CDC surveillance involves over 1,600 systems or approximately 45% of the U.S. population for norovirus, flu, COVID and RSV as well as a myriad of controlled substances. A current priority is H5N1 (avian influenza).

A new term (Industrial Symbiosis) describes a framework for both public and private sectors to share excess energy and/or water. The mutually beneficial push is consistent with developing a circular water economy whereas water is re-used. The Montville WPCA is at the forefront of this philosophy by recycling up to 60% of the treated effluent.

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.

Sustainability refers to the ability to maintain or support a process over time, ensuring that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It encompasses three core dimensions: environmental, economic, and social. A staggering 98% of organizations have some sort of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policy in place and half of those have company-wide formalized policies. The Montville WPCA has begun sustainable practices by having ample capital improvement to include using logistics processes that optimize loads to reduce emissions and carbon footprint (i.e. VFDs, fuel cell) and by reducing investment in fossil fuels and investing heavily in renewable energies (i.e. solar energy, battery storage).

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 storm water 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*. In his absence, the state-licensed Operator III is in responsible charge. The certification required for the collection system is from a professional organization (NEWEA, *New England Water Environment Association*). The Superintendent the Senior Maintenance Operations Inspector have 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.

Recent disposal requirements have caused out-of-state disposal of preliminary treatment waste (grit) to Waste Management (Fitchburg, MA) Landfill. Once characterized, the CT-regulated waste will be trucked from the WPCF bi-weekly to the landfill as cover material.

The *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act* — EPCRA — was passed in 1986 in response to chemical-related safety and environmental concerns in communities throughout the U.S. Specifically, the concerns stemmed from hazardous chemicals stored and handled in facilities located in these local communities. Each state manages Tier II reporting differently. Tier II reporting is required per EPCRA Section 312 for all facilities that must prepare or have available safety data sheets (SDSs) under OSHA’s *Hazard Communication Standard*. Facilities must submit a Tier II inventory form to the appropriate state implementing agency, although some states have developed their own forms. A Tier II review was conducted in February with appropriate filings with the Town (e.g. Fire Marshal) and CTDEEP.

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.

Town of Montville was granted a six-month extension to the *Project Loan Obligation* (PLO) closing associated with the Cook Water Tower project (from April 30 to October 31, 2025). Based on the Town’s record on file, the Eversource overhead power line that supplies electricity to the equipment of the existing Water Tank traverses several private properties requiring easements. These required easements for the electrical service are slow in coming but need to be granted in favor of Eversource and expanded to 50-ft width for access.

5.0 Development

Several inquiries for potential residential development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review 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. The financial burden on the utility has never been greater. Development in town, the aging infrastructure and the potential for climate change affects costs with revenue drops exist due to poor collection rates and / or a drop in usages. 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.

The average household's combined water and sewer bill has risen by almost 5% between 2023 and 2024 (Bluefield Research, 2024) due to rising operational costs, inflation and infrastructure investments. Over the past five years, these combined bills have seen a near 25% increase thus placing financial pressure on households. Sewer charges continue to be the primary driver of these rising utility costs, representing nearly 60% of the average monthly bill and consistently exceeding water provision expenses. Regional disparities in water costs are significant, influenced by factors like infrastructure age and local climate risks, with monthly bills ranging from around \$22 (Phoenix, AZ) to over \$120 (San Francisco, CA).

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 2025 WPCA Sewer and Water Budget began on July 1, 2024. A cursory review of the first two quarters budget/CIP expenditures did not indicate concerns.

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

As part of the end of year regulatory filings, a calculation of total solids (dry tons of TWAS disposed of offsite) is calculated. All said, we had 3% less total tonnage disposed of (60 tons or 120,000 lbs) for the year as compared to 2024. This represents the efforts made by the operators to achieve a significant savings to our facility; approximately \$40,000. Biosolids handling/disposal are significant cost to the facility and will continue to increase in the years to come; liquid sludge is increasingly difficult to dispose of and increasing PFAS controls will make it even harder.

A Montville 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 continue to 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.

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 budget/CIP focus on several areas for improvement.

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, notified that funds for the grant have now been exhausted. Wright-Pierce was met to discuss future 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.

The CTDEEP is provided February updates on funding and other opportunities for climate change (hardening) from Commissioner Dykes about this topic for state funding.

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

The (electrical) energy is the single largest monthly expenditure. With energy utility rates on the rise over 2024, the drive to create smarter, more efficient buildings has never been more critical. 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. Additional efforts to control energy expenditures include the proposed improvement of the plant water system with VFDs and onsite battery storage.

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.

The Administrator met with Garrett Cudgma of Resource LE to discuss battery (electrical energy) storage. *Battery Energy Storage Systems* (BESS) are technologies for the storage of electrical energy. It ensures consistent power availability amidst unpredictable energy supply due to factors such as weather changes and power outages and peak demand periods. Additionally, the Administrator met with Adam Teff, TitanGen for an energy savings program.

Superintendent Albertson reported that progress is going well, and federal/state permit goals are being met as to effluent. Effluent of \$40% is being recycled back to Rand-Whitney. There are no concerns about equipment. The Superintendent and Administrator McDaniel are preparing the FY2026-2027 budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to present to the Commission at next month's meeting. A newly hired operator is scheduled to begin work on March 17.

i. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel submitted his report of activities in February 2025 as follows:

- The Stony Brook bridge project is complete, and we are finalizing retainage payment.
- The Distribution Box Project is completed. We are negotiating the final payment.
- We submitted the closeout paperwork of the grant for the State and are awaiting final closure.
- The Septage Receiving Station unit has been delivered, and the crew is readying it for installation. New septage rates took effect January 1.
- Bid is prepared for the replacement of the pump system at the Chesterfield Pump Station.
- Our New Operator In Training Chadwick Costa will begin March 17.
- 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 requested and been granted a 6-month extension due to the problem in acquiring two (2) of the three (3) Eversource easements. They are drafted and have been sent to them, and I am awaiting their approval and execution. The Mayor has intervened in an effort to move this along.
- We are finalizing all of the rates in our water rate structure in order to make all the changes at one time.
- Our Lead Service Line Inventory is now available to staff online in our GIS system. We also have the capability to add/modify sewer and water as built into our GIS.
- We are having an energy evaluation done at no cost to see if we can take advantage of current Eversource incentives.

Administrator McDaniel reported that a septage receiving unit was installed in-house within four (4) hours by staff and without incident saving a lot of money. The report on the same was included in the meeting packet. Also noted was a bid developed for the Chesterfield Pump Station that will be sent out online tomorrow or Wednesday; the sludge hauling bid was revised and will be reposted today. These bids are due back in early April and Chairperson Longton asked that notice be sent to the Commission of the dates should anyone wish to attend.

j. Report from Mayor

Mayor Bunnell reported that his office is working with Administrator McDaniel regarding the easements for the Cook Water Tower project to try getting cooperation from the landowners, so far without success. The Administrator reported on having obtained a 6-month extension for loan closing and is working with Bond counsel regarding the easements. Letters were sent to the two (2) landowners; one (1) from Bond counsel and the other from the Administrator about a willingness to work with them for compliance and the unfavorable option for pursuit of imminent domain. Administrator McDaniel reported on receiving a letter from the landowner and having a subsequent, lengthy conversation with the landowner who agreed to schedule a meeting with the Mayor last week—no follow-up for the meeting has occurred. The Administrator reported that the cost to the WPCA would be for the easements and noted that two (2) appraisers have been lined up as the process cannot exceed 6-months, as a response to questions from Commissioner Terry. Mayor Bunnell reported on meeting with the contractor Suchocki & Son, the lowest bidder, for the Town boat launch. The first part of the project is the fishing pier that will begin before Memorial Day; the second part which is the boat launch itself is a little short of funds, but the project will be moving forward.

k. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported that the recently installed septage receiving unit has saved quite a bit of money which maintenance did quickly. It reflects on the ability of the staff and their work, which did not damage the expensive equipment that will be usable for 25 years plus. The old unit will go to the best scrap yard that will pay \$.80 per lb. The Superintendent also reflected on the philosophy of the Administrator for trying to do some engineering work in-house. Also reported on was a superficial inventory of 850 of the 1650 manholes inspected by the collections operator and the intern to make sure no damage was done to the lids and drum by plows that are rough on them. The remaining manholes can be done by next week, per a question from Chairperson Longton. As to the Chesterfield Pump House, Superintendent Albertson remarked that we know what we want, the mechanics are able to be defined and the project will go out to bid. Workstations also will need to be enhanced as Microsoft 10 will no longer be supported as of October 2025.

I. Old Business -- None

m. New Business

SAR-No. 2025-01 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act on a request from the Town of Montville for funding for the boat launch improvements and the WPCA hereby resolves to approve \$100,000 for lighting and security at the Montville Boat Launch. **Motion** by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Terry. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported that per the bid numbers received the project is \$100,000 short of funds and the WPCA was asked if would contribute and partner in the project. The Commission must decide if the funds will be expended in the current fiscal year or the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Terry inquired when the project would be completed if it begins near Memorial Day; Mayor Bunnell responded by the end of the year, but the boat launch is prefabricated and should be completed by the end of August. Commissioner Terry also asked about the other funds for the project; Mayor Bunnell responded that \$700,000 is from a DEEP Grant and \$750,000 from the Town General Fund appropriated in 2022 but not moved from that fund although the Town approved it. Additional funds would be sought from LoSip or DEEP as the project bid came in at \$1.5 million, if needed. The Mayor also responded that lighting was included in the project but said it does not include surveillance cameras. Commissioner Lathrop asked whether additional funds were available for the cameras; The Administrator knows that there will be big projects to replenish the WPCA funds by way of connections fees and if there is aggressive action taken with collections. He also reported that there is cash on hand of \$2 million without adversely affecting the WPCA or can bond if there is a major catastrophe. **Motion to Amend** by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Terry to amend the original motion for the Montville Boat Launch project to \$150,000 to purchase cameras for the fishing pier/boat launch project. Discussion: Commissioner Terry remarked the idea was a good one. **Voice vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried. Vote on Original Motion: Roll Call vote: In favor:** Chairperson Longton, Commissioners Lathrop, Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.**

n. Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning

Chairperson Longton reported that the Planning & Zoning meeting the 145 Route 32 project was discussed that will affect the WPCA but was tabled for insufficient information. Administrator McDaniel reported having spoken to Assistant Planner Badalucca noting that the Applicant had sought to obtain approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission that night. He also reported that 20-plus comments were made by the Land Use & Development Office and 20-plus comments by the Town Engineer about the project. Also, the WPCA has two (2) pages of notes and will be meeting with their consultant given the reduced size of the project from 32 units to 11 units and the hookups moved to off of Route 32. Chairperson Longton also reported that the 1645 Route 185 project will not effect the WPCA as the water supply will be onsite wells.

II. **Water Commission**

a. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson reported that operations at the Plant were good with normal testing and flushing with all goals being met. No mishaps have occurred and WPCA comments will be finalized Wednesday or Thursday. The recent bill from Groton Utilities (GU) is consistent to what was purchased in February. Lost water was estimated to be at 7% lower than the national average of 15%-17%. The Superintendent remarked that the Montville water system is young and tight and unbillable or unaccountable water could be attributable to inaccuracy in the meter, an open hydrant; or flushing by fire departments.

b. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel reported that prior to his arrival residential water was billed quarterly but monthly for commercial businesses. At present, there is almost a full year of data for water usage and a report can be generated to reflect the data. Additionally, water supply billing issues can be easily tracked—three (3) were found last month. He described some to the Commission including one account that has metered use of 500,000 gallons of water to date. Monthly accounting allows

.....
for looking at a customer's usage to determine if there is a problem sooner rather than later that has been a great help. There is no one-time 'oops' or forgiveness program for customers at present as questioned by Commissioner Terry, but it is something that could be considered according to the Administrator. Commissioner Lathrop asked if there is a relief fund for struggling families; there is not according to Administrator McDaniel, but they are referred to TVCCA or Social Services. Average water use for a typical dwelling unit is 195 gallons per day according to Superintendent Albertson but may be adjusted industry-wide due to low flow toilets and showerheads. The Administrator recapped the Cook Water Tank issues concerning the extension and easements and provided information detailing the measures involved in restructuring a water rate. Meter changeouts, curb shutoff, and red tags for nonpayment—he noted that some have not been updated in 20 years and/or since 2014. Staff has reviewed the water rate data that will be submitted to the consultant for review followed by the Commission and then to the Town Council for approval. Administrator McDaniel also reported that the Plant water system pump is pending replacement, and he is currently working with Eversource for a 30% - 40% energy incentive.

c. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson remarked that Administrator McDaniel reported on the water rate study and working with the Commission engineers.

d. Old Business -- None

e. New Business -- None

f. Reports from SCWA

Chairperson Longton reported that SCWA did not have a meeting.

III. Remarks

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

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

b. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Lathrop reported that he is looking forward to the ground breaking for the fishing pier/boat launch as he is big fan of fishing and is glad for the project that needs to be protected. Mayor McDaniel remarked that the cameras for the boat launch will eventually be expanded to take care of what the Town has; i.e. the Camp Oakdale tennis courts and fields as there has long been Town vandalism as confirmed by Public Works Director Carlson. Thus, the Mayor remarked that the plan is to get the cameras for the long term and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its support. Administrator Albertson remarked that the Plant operators are diligent concerning waste sludge that has reduced trucking by 30% for a cost savings of \$45,000. The reduced trucking represents 46 trucks over 28 days in February. That attention creates savings that is the kind of attention we like to see for better process control due to the operators' attention to thickening waste to reduce its volume in addition to favorable weather conditions.

c. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0. 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.**