

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 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 6:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson and Administrator Ronald McDaniel.

d. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

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

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to approve the Discussion Minutes of the March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-1.** Commissioner Gladue abstained. **Motion carried.**

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f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission

Administrator McDaniel reported bids were received on Friday for sludge hauling and disposal and will be received by him and Superintendent Albertson. The comparative cost to last year is 6.9% versus 6.4% last year with only one responsive bid received. The effective cost will increase by \$50.

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 March 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 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total treatment volume of 78 million gallons (mg) for the month. Each day, approximately 50% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB). Positive comments were received regarding overall communication between the Superintendent and production facility as well as the quality of recycle water and its abundance to support their needs due to their recent (increased) production.

Plant treatment was good with permit effluent parameters met. Average Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent below the permit (loading) level.

Thickened waste activated sludge (WAS) was calculated to be approximately 5.7% total solid (TS) which is considered good due to volume reduction (lower truck hauls/disposal tonnage).

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. A March Water Audit indicated approximately 5% lost water.

2.0 Staff

Chad Cota began work in the vacant Operator I position on March 17. The Grasso Tech intern has elected to work through the summer with the WPCF team. As a significant number of water professionals approach retirement, a pipeline of qualified candidates is needed to fill mission-critical roles and ensure the sustainability of the water workforce. We have completed a *Succession Plan* to explore how to identify future workers and how to set them up for success within the Montville WPCA.

2.1 Health and Safety

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No injuries were reported by the WPCA staff. Routine work starts with a job hazard analysis. The team takes a step back to analyze what knowledge is needed to work safely in a “tailgate meeting”. By identifying and then mitigating hazards or potential hazards the team reduces risk of injury. All employees have been given authority to stop work when a hazard or unsafe condition exists.

2.2 Training

Staff continued to receive training (state or professional organization sponsored) to meet the CTDEEP/CTDPH requirements.

The new employee (Chad Cota) received Lock Out/Tag Out, E, H & S, and forklift certification on March 21. Annual First Aid, CPR, AED and BBP training was scheduled for April 7.

The FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are urging users of popular email services like Gmail and Outlook to be on the lookout for a dangerous and potentially costly ransomware scheme. Appropriate staff warnings were issued.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

A proposed FY 2026 WPCF sewer/water CIP project summary table is included in the submittal.

An inventory of the Route 32 manholes was conducted for the area of proposed paving- Massapeag Road north to the Norwich Town Line. Proper manhole riser prevents inflow during storm events. A central feature of the new pavement is the use of ultra-thin, ultra-durable wear layers of advanced material. The thinner pavement layers do present a challenge when it comes to raising manholes. The cast iron risers have to be chosen carefully to ensure that the durable and immaculate new roadway surfaces will not be marred by shallow potholes at every manhole.

The utility cycle of plan, respond and recover will continue into the future to manage potential trends due to climate change. A new NASA analysis, using data collected from 1993 shows a 4-inch rise in sea levels from 1993 to 2024 (more than expected) which stokes increased concern for flooding and storm damage to infrastructure like sewage plants. A review of flood mapping does not indicate a problem for the plant or collection system.

On a daily basis, the WPCF and collection systems transmit data with the *Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition* (SCADA) software (*Factory Talk View* by Rockwell Automation) read via a computer- HMI, human machine interface) or smart phone. A RA representative confirmed equipment inventory in March. Alarm notification is a critical function of SCADA and has been fine-tuned by the mechanics/operators to limit false or insignificant alarms.

No problems were identified during the severe weather in March.

4.0 Projects

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

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The United Nations has designated March 22nd as *World Water Day*, observed annually to raise awareness of global freshwater challenges and solutions. Given that the Town utilizes large quantities of water, responsible management of this resource is a given.

CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) sewer inspections (of a portion 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. A recent inspection included a sewer line from Black Ash PS to Pheasant Run PS.

While jetting of sewer lines is made, when necessary, “flushing” is considered the best option. This less intrusive cleaning pushes solids out of lines (toward the WPCF). Post (snow) plowing surface inspections were made of all but a few of the 1,640 collection system manholes in February and March. Additionally, cross-country inspections have begun in the warmer weather to confirm that bypass do not exist in these hidden areas. Initially, two small cross-country routes (inverted siphon west to Route 163 and Maple Avenue / contribution line to Chesterfield PS).

Water utilities globally manage large value assets, requiring powerful tools to maintain their networks effectively. GIS enables utilities to model, visualize, and analyze systems with precision, capturing the complexities and improving overall performance. Every time an asset is “touched” (i.e. inspected, repaired, maintained), the work is recorded within the system.

Researchers are increasingly using wastewater sampling as an early detection tool for disease outbreaks and new microbe variants weeks before they become widespread. Additionally, illegal drug metabolites can be monitored. The Montville WPCA was one of the first plants in New England to actively achieve medical surveillance.

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.

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 annually) discharge reporting and emergency reporting are 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 include normal monthly, quarterly and annual reporting.

On March 12, the USEPA announced an aggressive rollback of environmental regulations. Overall, 31 historic actions were undertaken by the agency in the most consequential and momentous day of deregulation in U.S. history.

As indicated, our utility relies 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. 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.

Looking forward, the wastewater/water utility is managing a number of regulatory challenges including the PFAS rule, LCRR and cyber security. The LCRR priorities for the coming year: identifying unknown service line materials in your inventory, preparing for new sampling requirements, and developing a funding strategy.

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.

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. A proposed FY 2026 budget/CIP will be presented to the WPCA and the Town Council. The budgets call for economic efficiency with the minimum resource consumption and maximum performance of the equipment

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required to supply potable water and treat the municipal sewerage. The budget must establish appropriate funding for reliability of the utility.

A Montville sewer rate increase would increase revenues. Informal reviews of other towns' rates show the Montville WPCA sewer rate to be approximately 30% lower than market.

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

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

The USEPA Administrator, with the assistance of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), cancelled more than 400 grants totaling \$1.7 billion. This marks the fourth round of EPA-DOGE partnered cancellations of spending. Likely, this means less money available for water/wastewater grants.

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

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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 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.

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.

WPCA personnel met with Garrett Cudgma of Resource LE on March 20 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 (BESS converts and stores electricity during off-peak times when electricity is more economical). It releases stored energy during peak demand, using components like rechargeable batteries, inverters for energy conversion, and sophisticated control software. This technology reduces reliance on costly peak-power plants, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and enhances grid stability. It also represents a "hardening" response to climate change.

Superintendent Albertson reported having had a good March and a good first quarter given last year's struggle with heavy rain. Ninety percent of energy was produced onsite by the fuel cell which means that percent did not require transportation costs; 8% percent less energy demand or \$10,000. Solids thickening disposal has decreased 10% as compared to last year; a savings of close to \$10,000. Septage receiving continues to improve, a \$26,000 cost in March, that is expected to climb during the year, so the Plant should do well in April given the number of trucks coming and going. New Operator I Chad Cota is onboarding well and is an uncertified operator who is expected to qualify soon and quickly move up the ladder. Last Wednesday at Kitemaug and Massapeag Roads a force main breach was found by Collections Operator Dennis Kexel who notified the mechanic on duty Kevin Loiler who then reached out to the emergency response contractor within one (1) hour of the breach. The emergency responder B & W Contractors coordinated efforts along with the team to stop and bypass the breach using the pumper truck. The team worked all night to reestablish the force main pipe by replacing it to working order that is appreciated by the State. Administrator McDaniel noted that the breach was near Horton Cove and encased in concrete with a resulting cost of \$36,000 and was noted by Commissioner Gladue as being the second breach in that same area although a permanent fix is unlikely.

i. Report from Administration

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

- (W&S) The Stony Brook bridge project is complete, final payment has been issued, and the project is closed out.

- (S) The Distribution Box Project is complete--we negotiated a \$10,000 credit, final payment has been issued, and the project is closed out.
- (S) The Septage Receiving Station unit has been installed by staff and is working great.
- (S) Bid has been issued for the replacement of the pump system at the Chesterfield Pump Station.
- (S) Bid has been issued for sludge hauling and disposal.
- (S) Our New Operator In Training, Chadwick Costa, began March 17.
- (W) We temporarily suspended the regular monthly Cook Drive Water Tower meetings due to the easement delays. We have been granted a 6-month extension due to the easement issue. They are drafted and have been sent to them, and I am awaiting their approval and execution. The Mayor continues his effort to move this along.
- (W) We have finalized updating all of the rates in our water rate structure in order to make all the changes at one time. **AGENDA ITEM**
- (S) We are looking at our sewer rates structure for comparable communities.
- (W&S) We continue to enter data into the GIS system for all aspects of our system. This is an invaluable tool for our staff and clients.
- (S) We are continuing our energy evaluation done at no cost to see if we can take advantage of current Eversource incentives. One large item is the potential for battery storage at no cost to the Authority.
- (W&S) Derek and I prepared the budgets for your review and approval. **AGENDA ITEM**
- (W&S) We are nearing changeover to a new vendor for our credit card processing to save money and have the ability to charge the service fees to the end user. We are currently absorbing that cost.
- (S) We had to replace 5 split HVAC units in the plant administrative areas due to the units' premature failure related to environmental conditions. (Laboratory, Administrator office, Superintendent office, Breakroom, Conference Room.)
- (S) We are upgrading desktops as Windows 10 will no longer be supported after October 1.
- (S) = Sewer (W) = Water (W&S) = Water and Sewer

Administrator McDaniel gave an overview of activities in March at the Plant per his report. The Stony Bridge and distribution box projects were closed, the Septage Receiving Station was installed and the sludge holding is being reviewed and is out for bid with the bid opening on April 11. Also reported was contact from another city regarding the Town sewer rate structure that will also be under review. Energy evaluation is ongoing, and the wait continues with Eversource regarding the water pumps. The replacement of the air conditioning at the Plant due to corrosion was reported as all were on the same compressor. The one in the conference room was relocated due to an abnormal atmospheric condition. Discussion was had about upgrades to the Plant computers to Microsoft Windows 11 and the security measures that are in place.

j. Report from Mayor -- None

k. Report from Engineers

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Superintendent Albertson reported on bid openings for the sludge hauling and the Chesterfield Pump Station on April 4th and April 11th, respectively. It was also reported that CIP projects were based upon discussions with engineers concerning projects needing to be completed this year.

I. Old Business -- None

m. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the FY2026 Sewer CIP.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to approve the *Capital Improvement Plan for Sewer* for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,029,800.00 (One Million, Twenty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-02 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for Sewer for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,029,800.00 (One Million, Twenty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported on having talked with staff and met with engineers concerning things that needed to get done. The items are identified in yellow (sewer collection system and pump stations rehabilitation and improvements) and in blue (Plant facility rehabilitation/improvements and new construction), per the information given to the Commission. Possible bonding to fund those items in blue are being considered. The Administrator identified the following CIP items: Maple Avenue where absolute needs will be done (\$3 million) with partial State reimbursement; sewer pipe repair materials for some parts that are low in quantity; close action TV for monitoring by phone; the boat launch proposal with \$50,000 added by Commissioner Lathrop; the Chesterfield pump station proposed for after July at \$185,000; Plant windows and wall renovations (\$1,029,800) with concrete walls—all of these items may be rolled into a bond and noted that CIP comes out of the sewer budget that will also include replacement of the main plant generator (\$400,000). **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.**

2. To Consider and Act on the FY2026 Sewer Budget.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to approve the *Budget for Sewer* for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,203,678.00 (Seven Million, Two Hundred and Three Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-03 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the *Budget for Sewer* for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$7,203,678.00 (Seven Million, Two Hundred and Three Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Gladue. Discussion: Superintendent Albertson reported on a considerably conservative increase versus last year due to

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what is described as the covid effect and the rising cost of industrial materials due to the consumer price index increase for this year but with projected revenues to cover costs per the enterprise fund standard. More aggressive measures for collections continue by Administrator McDaniel concerning accounts with longstanding nonpayment, one over a decade, and are being sought when there is a transfer of property. There are steady revenues from the Mohegan Tribe, \$56,000 for this month, that is relatively high for them. Rand-Whitney flows and concentration have increased, and more is expected with regular usage. Also noted was the 90% collection rate of the Plant given the size of the Town, which is rare, and revenues are expected to meet costs. The Superintendent also reported on the sludge thickening that is at a higher rate and lower overall for truck count as well as the electricity savings from the fuel cell, although it had been problematic for the past two (2) months. Superintendent Albertson responded to questions from Chairperson Longton and confirmed that the cost of chemical supplies will remain steady, having enough chemicals for reserve and chlorine for 45 days and two (2) different types of polymer. April 15th is the start for the disinfection season; and May 1st – October 31st chlorine must be added to effluent and managed but not much during the winter. Superintendent Albertson described the use of the polymers and the reduction to trucking costs; spoke of influents as being volatile due to conditions of the weather and about the handling of various processes to make sure effluent complies with permit. Administrator McDaniel has spoken with an attorney about extreme nonpayment accounts pertaining to demand letters. Discussion was also had by the Commission per Commissioner Terry's question of requiring customers to pay an upfront bond and/or deposit for utilities, that may start with sewer per Superintendent Albertson, although the Town does not currently require it. Methods to obtain payment—liens, demand letters, and bank execution—were discussed. Administrator McDaniel spoke of having given congressional testimony that only deems pursuit of collection for accounts in excess of \$3,000, although noting that a lien is the most effective measure. Chairperson Longton asked Administrator McDaniel to add a threshold policy to next month's meeting agenda; Superintendent Albertson will speak to the Team regarding archaic terms like this one. Administrator McDaniel also noted that salaries take a percentage of D & R and water operations that is at 6% while the remainder stays on the sewer budget. He also reported having only one contract that has not been settled. Commissioner Terry remarked that the budget presentation was clear, easy to read and concise. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. ***Opposed:*** none. **Vote:** 4-0-0, all in favor. **Motion approved.**

3. To Consider and Act on a Motion to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-04 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility in the amount of \$5,030.00. **Motion** by Commissioner Gladue; seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel remarked that the Commission

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should not charge for connection and the cost will be deemed a loss to the Commission for purposes of transparency. Chairperson Longton noted that it is a standard for the Town, most times. **Roll Call vote: In favor:** Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.**

n. Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning

Chairperson Longton had no report from the Planning & Zoning meeting. Administrator McDaniel reported that 145 Route 32 – Powerhouse Road etc. submitted another set of plans and answered all of the WPCA’s questions.

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson reported that Administrator McDaniel has new software pertaining to flushing and water overuse that has resulted in stopping a running flow of water thru the meter with one (1) very large account to date. Commissioner Terry inquired whether the Town offers one (1) free pass. Per Chairman Longton, he asked that this matter be discussed at next month’s meeting as to whether the proposal is fair to the WPCA and the Commission. It was noted that New London has this policy in place. The Administrator referenced a neglectful landlord and noted that one case should not fit all.

b. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel reported that he wants to meet with the Town Council, Mayor, and Finance concerning the \$20,000 check that will not be brought by him to a meeting with landowners regarding the request by Eversource for easements for two (2) properties concerning the Cook Water Tower Project. Eversource will not do the work without easements. The electrical pole will be installed on the property of Hall Communications, but Eversource wants express access. Emails were sent to all parties. The Administrator noted there is no restriction on the property as the WPCA owns it, but the owner wants a deed restriction. He also reported on the loan agreement extension that was done today toward eminent domain agreement.

c. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported that the copper rule provision is up-to-date that requires identification of any pipes that are not lead within the next few years. A hydro exploration will be done. He also remarked about a consumer confidence report—it federally notes that ratepayers can see the quality of their water. All Town water is obtained from Groton Utilities, and no problem is anticipated. Chairperson Longton noted that security will be discussed at the next meeting regarding the same.

d. Old Business -- None

e. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the FY 2026 Water Budget.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to approve the *Budget for Water Supply* for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,760,044.00 (One Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Forty-Four Dollars).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-05 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the *Budget for Water Supply* for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,760,044.00 (One Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Forty-Four Dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Gladue; seconded by Commissioner Terry. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported that the budget was barebones with no CIP or any expense problem due to paying more for water than collecting. Included also are labor expenses for two (2) employees noting that all connection fees have to be paid to the Mohegan Tribe as they funded the pipe across the Thames River. Superintendent Albertson responded to Commissioner Miceli concerning connection fees stating that not much water is being sold and that 90% of it is recycled. Administrator McDaniel also noted the inclusion of the first payment for the water tower. Commissioner Gladue noted that the condition of the roads are bad; the Administrator remarked that item was not budgeted. Chairperson Longton inquired if the budget includes a water increase; the Administrator reported that the Town Council had not approved it, but it should add \$300,000 in revenue. Administrator Albertson also noted that the Administrator, Chief Operator and other associated fees are well below levels. Commissioner Gladue asked and given an explanation of percentage increase to water for customers—30%, 30%, 10%, 10%, 2%, and 2% over a period of six (6) years. **Roll Call vote: In favor:** Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.**

2. To Consider and Act on a Motion to revise the indirect water rates.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to adopt the *Water Rate Schedule I* as presented.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-06 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to adopt the *Water Rate Schedule I*, as presented. **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Terry. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel noted to the Commission that the part in blue on the handout was approved and everything in yellow is what is being asked of the Town Council to approve. The front sheet of the proposed indirect water rates accounts for the water rates in the area but does not effect a lot of water connection fees which the Mohegan Tribe pays. Commissioner Terry inquired if there are service costs after hours—reported was one (1) customer, the Building Department, this past weekend to clear grinder pumps that Commissioner Gladue noted should be billed at time and a half. Superintendent Albertson noted that commercial pumps are designed for the same. Commissioner Miceli asked if the cost could be raised to time and a half, an amendment to \$75.00. Administrator McDaniel noted that letters will be sent to tenants and confirmed to Chairperson Longton that the owner of Pequot Village pays the charge. **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue to adopt the *Water Rate Schedule I* and amend Miscellaneous Services and

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Administrative Charges No. 4, Item A from the proposed \$65.00 to \$75.00; No. 4, Item A for Emergency Service after business hours. **Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved, as amended.** Administrator McDaniel will forward the *Water Rate Schedule I* to the Town Council for the Public Hearing on April 14, per Mayor Bunnell.

3. To Consider and Act on a Motion to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility.

The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby Resolves to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility in the amount of \$5,220.00.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2025-07 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to waive the sewer connection fees for the K-9 Barrett Memorial Animal Control Facility in the amount of \$5,220.00. **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: It was noted that the motion should say water connection fees and funds sent to the Mohegan Tribe who agreed to say no to the fees. **Amended Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue to say “water connection fees” not sewer connection fees. **Voice vote: 4-0-0. Motion approved, as amended. Modified Original Motion Roll Call vote:** *In favor:* Commissioners Gladue, Longton, Miceli, and Terry. **Opposed:** none. **Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion approved.**

- f. Reports from SCWA -- None

III. **Remarks**

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

Chairperson Longton asked three (3) for comments. Maureen Benway of 41 Dock Road, former WPCA employee of 20 year, asked whether the water rate increase will be backdated (it will take effect July 1st per Administrator McDaniel) and why is it so top heavy. She noted that a lot of seniors are on fixed income and maybe the rate increase should have been spread out a little. Per Commissioner Terry the initial percentage was set to put funds back into the coffer. M. Benway confirmed that she will also get credit for her sampling of the water.

- b. Remarks from Commission Members

Chairperson Longton welcomed back Commissioner Gladue who remarked that all looks good and is on the right track if only we can get the Cook Water Tower up and running, hopefully soon. Superintendent Albertson reported on a 1 million gallon water break in East Windsor. The Commission also discussed again how the force main break discussed earlier was discovered and repaired. Mayor Bunell’s arrival was noted at 7:23 p.m. by the Chairperson and the Mayor reported that he signed a bond that modifies the bond language to October 31 for the Cook Water Tower.

c. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Terry to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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
UNDER “RESOURCES” ON THE MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**