

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2026 -- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairperson Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:04 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

Present was Chairperson Chuck Longton, Commissioners Frank Miceli and Deane Terry. Commissioner Richard Gladue and Town Councilor Nick Sabilia were absent. A quorum was present.

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

d. Alterations to the Agenda

Administrator McDaniel introduced Attorney William McCoy of Heller, Heller & McCoy who was present to speak regarding a potential development in Town. He asked that the Commission waive the three-minute limit for the same.

e. Motion to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 2, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to approve the WPCA regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2026. Discussion: none. **Voice vote, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

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. Attorney McCoy remarked about the proposed residential development at 320 Maple Avenue, Montville. His client KA&G Investments LLC entered into an agreement with property owners John and Lynette Crowley to purchase the property. Engineer David Held proposed that the residential water demand for this project will be 56,250 gallons per day (GPD) based on 250 units each with three (3) bedrooms although there may be some 2-bedroom units. Sewer and sanitary access from Maple Drive or Dayville Drive is requested along with a 2-year allocation hold for project permitting, financing and commencement. A request was also being made for a determination for both wastewater treatment capacity in addition to transmission capacity and a 2-year allocation for the same. It is believed that the capacity exists. Attorney McCoy responded to a question concerning approval for the project stating that it has not been approved. A conceptual plan will be presented to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Administrator McDaniel added that because there are so many pending Planning & Zoning projects he has no capacity to answer all questions concerning this project as more time is needed for review. As well, it will allow the WPCA to better plan. Superintendent Albertson added that the project will be reviewed by the WPCA engineer.

h. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for activities in March 2026, as follows:

1.0 Compliance/Process

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

.....
The Montville Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) oversees the Montville Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF)/Collection System and the Water Supply distribution system (WS).

WPCF treatment continued to improve in March with a cleaner (treated) effluent. While significant rain events lead to hydraulic overloading, the nutrient balance and warmer weather raised process tank temperatures and led to some improved process control. Influent contribution consists of one-third each from the Town, RWCB and MTUA. Fluctuations are related to production at the mill, events at the Casino as well as rain contribution to the entire system.

Average daily influent flow to the WPCF for the month was approximately 2.6 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total (influent) treatment volume of 79 mg for the month. Influent flows were considerably higher (> 30% more) than February. The significant rain event on March 16 caused some plant hydraulic overloading thus affecting process control. Each day, approximately 50% of the treated effluent (non-potable) was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB) for re-use in their production of paper. The RWCB 30-hour shutdown on March 17 presented challenges due to the large fluctuation in hydraulic and BOD loading.

1.2 Water Supply

The WS met required state and federal standards. March 22 was *World Water Day* with the theme of Water and Gender. Held annually on March 22nd, World Water Day focuses on the importance of water. This year's theme—Water and Gender—highlights the ways in which the global water crisis disproportionately impacts women and girls, many of whom are often tasked with the collection and management of our most critical resource.

2.0 Staff

2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries were reported by the WPCA staff. In addition to formal training consistent with state and federal guidelines, the staff continue to use daily “tailgate meetings” to identify hazards and promote “situational awareness”. Travis Roberts (Montville Fire Department) conducted the annual safety inspections on February 25 and March 6. Some minor concerns were identified (i.e. exit lights) which were rectified.

Bob Kenyon (GreenCorp, safety/training consultant) was met to review safety training classes. He conducted an OSHA safety inspection on March 6.

OSHA lists five levels of control: elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative and PPE. Administrative is key to safety by altering work procedures to eliminate or reduce hazard exposure. Typically, WPCA supervisors employ training, defining work practices, appropriate maintenance (and housekeeping), signage, defined schedules (including staff rotation) and medical surveillance (for CDL drivers).

The Superintendent met with Theresa Sullivan-Barger of *The New London Day* on March 16 to discuss climate change (i.e. storms, warmer summers) and its potential effects on the WPCA.

On March 12 the East Hampton Town Council voted to terminate the head of the WPCA and remove every member of its board following the collapse of a plan to expand a water treatment plant. During public comment, multiple residents said the WPCA had attempted to expand the treatment plant without public knowledge. A lesson learned; public disclosure is imperative.

2.2 Training/Certifications

Staff have continued to receive training (state/professional) to meet the CTDEEP/CTDPH annual requirements as well as support additional advanced certifications. In-house education includes discussions of the plant's process control methodologies, conveyance system components as well as identified and seasonal safety issues. Jeff Dimmock of the CT Rural Water & Wastewater Association was met on March 13 to review training classes. Additionally, NEWEA and WEF personnel were consulted about available online training for laboratory certification. One staff member will sit for the CTDEEP Operator I certification exam this spring while another will sit for the CTDEEP Operator II exam.

.....
Extreme weather is increasing (and facilities must be designed for resilience). A webinar was attended by the Superintendent about how to protect against inundation, bypass events, and storm surges. Additionally, the Superintendent attended (virtually) CTDEEP *Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)* training on March 11 and 24, respectively.

Cyber threats are evolving beyond technology alone. From social engineering to complex fraud schemes, organizations face risks driven by human behavior and cybercrime. Iranian cyber actors have placed an increased emphasis on the immediate identification and exploitation of Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs). A PLC is an industrial computer that has been ruggedized and adapted for the control of processes that require high reliability, ease of programming, and process fault diagnosis. There is a widespread use of PLCs within the plant and pumping stations. All staff completed the *KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training* provided by the IT Department. The Superintendent attended the CISA/The Overwatch Foundation *Cybersecurity for Water and Wastewater Utilities* on March 12 and the CTRWWA *Modernizing Wastewater Compliance: Data Management & Reporting Best Practices* on March 19.

The WPCF hosted the Killingly WPCF Superintendent on March 13 to discuss BOD variable influent loading (theirs due to the Frito-Lay factory, ours due to RWCB). On March 16, the Superintendent was interviewed by Theresa Sullivan-Barger from *The Day* about Climate Change and its effect on the WPCA/Collection System.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

A new report (Smart Water, 2025) highlights the growing financial and infrastructure challenges facing water and wastewater utilities. With an estimated \$110 billion funding gap in 2024, set to balloon to \$194 billion by 2030, the sector is struggling to keep pace with aging infrastructure, rising operational costs, and increasing climate-related hazards. Underfunded utilities are grappling with aging infrastructure and rising maintenance costs. Climate change exacerbates challenges through water stress and increased flooding. The funding gap hinders utilities' ability to provide essential services, with potentially catastrophic consequences for communities. As shown, it is suggested that a rate increase is now required for the sewer operation. The previous water rate increase has led to a more robust financial footing.

The WPCA continues with a more proactive, data-driven asset management strategy that delivers measurable financial, operational, and community benefits without requiring disruptive or costly system overhauls. A FY 2026 WPCF sewer/water CIP project summary table is included in the submittal. A proposed FY 2027 sewer/water CIP table is provided as well. Aging infrastructure, shifting community priorities and tightening budgets demand a new approach to capital planning. When it comes to capital planning, the real advantage isn't just better data -- it's a shared language that brings everyone to the table- operators and mechanics.

The fuel cell went offline on March 21 but was returned to power on March 22.

A large amount of sand (grit) was observed coming into the plant. Extensive study in the collections system could not determine a source (i.e. line collapse). An overnight flow study was completed on March 25 to examine high flow situations during typical low flow conditions. A complete data review of previous reporting from 2007, 2010 and 2011 as well in-house studies were conducted. Two manholes were identified as needing repair (significant infiltration observed) and a subcontractor completed work on March 31 along Maple Avenue and Old Colchester Road.

4.0 Projects

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

The WPCA staff is making every attempt to improve process operations “soup to nuts”, including better effluent detections, residual solids reduction, chemical dosing effectiveness as well as treatment efficiency.

Recently, the WPCA Engineer and outside microbiologist were consulted about process control leading to better results. An abundance of nuisance organisms (including fungi) was discovered hindering typical activated sludge process. Typical activated sludge conditions were not present

.....
due to variable (influent) loading, a drop in alkalinity (and pH) and very cold-water conditions. High flow (rain event) conditions were reviewed with staff to encourage faster response.

The collections team follows the 2019 *Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance* (CMOM) Program to provide better asset management, customer service, regulatory compliance, as well as to protect human health and the natural environment. CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) sewer inspections (of a portion of the 62 miles of gravity sewers) were made in the priority areas to define Inflow and Infiltration (storm water and groundwater intrusion). Roughly 65% of the Town is sewered. Routine maintenance inspections are made of all the 24 lift stations and 1,650 manholes.

Extensive study was conducted during and after the March 16 storm. On average the increased flow was up by 30%, which is well below the red line of (100% increase flow), which indicates a serious problem. Regardless, the influent flow increased over 3.5 mgd and caused hydraulic overload. Examinations were made in all subsystems of the conveyance system. By tracking flows over time, the collections team can observe how wet-weather events drive I & I (inflow and infiltration) and pinpoint where excess water is entering the system and prioritize remediation. The collection team flow monitoring programs deliver defensible, data-driven results that extend asset life and lower long-term costs.

Solids handling (thickening/dewatering and hauling/disposal) is the second largest cost for the WPCA. Waste solids consist of material removed from secondary (biological) process to support the proper food to microorganism ratio for ideal wastewater treatment control. Typically, a “jar test” is conducted annually to ensure that the de-watering polymer is the best for our typical (biological/waste) sludge. Operators pay close attention to the Gravity Belt Thickener (GBT) to ensure best thickening (dewatering to 5 – 6%) with minimal polymer dosing.

An evaluation is made each month by the Superintendent of the sewer receiving as well as septage receiving to ensure there are no blind spots (unauthorized dumping), no lost revenues, no regulatory compliance risks, and minimal plant treatment equipment/process strain from wipes, grease and chemicals. Additionally, the energy billing is reviewed to determine the performance of the fuel cell (onsite generation of electrical power to lower number plant cost).

To combat water loss from the (potable) water supply, the WS team evaluates potential leaks and water loss (through a monthly water audit). Calculations of revenue water, non-revenue (accounted for) water versus non-revenue (unaccounted for) water were completed for the diversion permit. Typically, lost water is under 10% whereas the national average is greater than 16%. As previously indicated, a replacement project was completed for Cook Water Tower. The CTDPH annual reporting was completed for the GU Interconnection, the Inter-Regional Interconnection (Waterford and Norwich) and the Hillcrest Interconnection between SCRWA and the WS.

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The Montville WPCF is also known as a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) initially constructed with federal monies for residential (sanitary) wastewater treatment. It is required to meet state and federal standards for (point) effluent discharged to the Thames River per a NPDES (federal) permit and the (state general permit) for the *Long Island Sound Nutrient Reduction Program*. A new reporting form Monthly Operations Report (eMOR) was supplied by the CTDEEP. Biosolids (laboratory analytical) reporting is summarized for the USEPA on both a quarterly and annual basis. Due to its SIC listing, the plant must comply with state and federal stormwater regulations. Additionally, state and federal mandates (CMOM) exist for care of the sewer conveyance system.

Discharge and emergency reporting is signed (certified) by the state-licensed CTDEEP *Operator IV* (Superintendent, August 2014 Log Number 2312) in *Chief Operator 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*) and is certified by the NEWEA Grade IV Operator (Superintendent, June 2010 Certificate Number C-5170). The Superintendent has the highest certification required (Class/Grade IV) for both treatment and collections.

The 5-year federal wastewater discharge permit was effective on November 1, 2019. The current effluent permit has an expiration date of October 31, 2024; a renewal package was submitted to the CTDEEP prior April 30, as required (6 months prior to the expiration date). It is expected the permit will be reissued soon. The CTDEEP Stormwater General Permit regulates stormwater discharges. As such, a stormwater pollution control plan (SWPPP) is required under both state and federal requirements for a WPCF with a design flow over 1 mgd. The state WPCFs, with a general permit for nitrogen removal, complied with the (total) state waste load allocation in 2025 (9,162 eq/l) per the *Nitrogen Credit Exchange* (NCE) Program. As indicated previously, the Montville plant was well below (50% under) the permit limit for nitrogen discharges in the effluent.

The Superintendent was made aware of a time-out error affecting the NetDMR system, where some users were experiencing difficulties during the hand-off process when connecting from CDXWeb to NetDMR.

The draft cost of nitrogen credit for 2025- buyers and sellers table and nitrogen credit pricing was announced by Deputy Commissioner Emma Cimino for calendar year 2025. A draft invoice for each facility will be submitted. The attached memo and notice describe the arbitration process.

The Superintendent's June, November and December 2025 and January 2026 technical memorandums (TMs) outlined corrective actions to be taken to address Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) exceedances (as outline in the June 2025 CTDEEP *Notice of Violation* NOV #WRMU 25-004). The formal responses were submitted prior to deadlines. Following the timely TM submittals, the Superintendent and WPCA Engineer met with the CTDEEP to confirm findings and improvement projects.

Connecticut has banned the land application disposal of biosolids (such as the waste sludge). PFAS has made the problem of lowering costs of disposal even worse. Proposed regulations will require further advanced handling of the waste.

Raised Bill No. 5503 AN ACT REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO REPORT EXCESS WASTEWATER CAPACITY. The Act requires the WPCA to submit an annual report to the Secretary of Policy and Management detailing the municipality's current wastewater capacity and any projected excess wastewater capacity.

LCRR requirements have been concluded with the recent inspections of several supply lines to determine no lead conditions. The CTDPH has received the appropriate filings for the existing diversion permit. The CTDPH has sent notification about the upcoming sanitary survey.

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. On February 10 and 19, the staff met with the Public Works Director, Town Engineer (CLA) and representatives of Haley Ward (Glastonbury, CT) to discuss a large residential unit development project east of Route 32. Requests for information regarding a large sewer connection were received from Oak River Management LLC for The Meadows of Montville apartment complex along Leffingwell Road. The WPCA Superintendent, Engineer, and Mr. Stephen St. Germain (Property Manager/ Principal) first met last November 2021. Preliminary discussion defined scope of work (one or two pump stations and a long force main installation) and potential financial assistance. The developer / property manager is interested in federal funding available for sewer expansion. Of concern is the noted high I and I into the system during the last rain event. The snow melt made for a high water table increasing the stormwater/groundwater contribution to the influent flow.

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. Appropriate end-of-year accounting will identify areas whereas budgeting should be adjusted in future cycles.

Appropriate rates are a cornerstone for a utility’s financial stability and long-term infrastructure planning. As indicated later in this report, a WS rate increase has occurred. Now, a sewer rate increase must occur. State and federal funding must also be explored to supplement AR to meet the demands of our two utility systems. Low-income loans are more viable funding alternative than grants.

Utilities are entering what could become a new "golden age." Electrification, renewable expansion, AI-driven grid management, and demand from data centers are pushing utilities back to the center of economic growth.

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 2026 WPCA Sewer and Water Budget began on July 1, 2025. A cursory review FY 2025 budget/CIP expenditures did indicate immediate concerns. Future budget must develop appropriate AR to match proposed AP without tapping into the Fund Balance (as a source of revenue), significant reduction in AR.

The FY 2026 budgets/CIPs were approved by the WPCA and the Town Council. The budgets began on July 1, 2025 and call for economic efficiency with the minimum resource consumption and maximum performance of the equipment required to supply potable water and treat the municipal sewerage. The budgets must establish appropriate funding for reliability of the utility.

A Montville sewer rate increase would increase revenues. Informal reviews of other town’s rates show the Montville WPCA sewer rate to be approximately 40% lower than the current utility market. The WPCF has made reclaimed water a revenue source for many years, but plans should be considered for additional outlets.

A Montville WS rate was approved by the Town Council on May 12, 2025. The last time the WS rates were increased was via *Resolution 2014-50* (July 1, 2014). Connecticut’s largest water company, Aquarion Water Company (largest CT water company), announced its intention to seek a 42% rate increase after state regulators last month blocked a deal that would have transformed the company into a nonprofit quasi-public entity. The proposed rate hike, worth \$88 million annually, would be first in more than a decade for the company, which serves roughly 209,000 homes and businesses in Connecticut.

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.

Various funding sources are available for consideration in order to finance the planning, design and construction of infrastructure improvements and expansion. The outside funding allows for grants, bonds or loans to support a robust annual CIP.

6.3 Grants/Funding

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.

.....
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. 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). The repayment is scheduled for a 20-year amortization with a 2% rate beginning on October 31.

The Administrator is managing the annual \$200,000 RWCB payment (to WPCA) related to sewer O & M.

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 WPCA expenditure. The current inflation rate for energy is twice the total inflation rate or CPI. On average, the WPCF consumes 360,000 kWh per month. As such, the Superintendent examines each point of use to ensure best efficiency.

Blowers can consume up to 60% of the wastewater treatment plant’s total energy—and over 90% of the energy used in aeration. Between May 2024 and May 2025, the national average electricity rate jumped 6.5%—from 16.4¢/kWh to 17.5¢/kWh. Thus, the Administrator and the Superintendent are constantly looking at ways to optimize energy usage within your water treatment plant/collections system and water supply.

Electrical Energy is mostly 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. Based on the recent storms and brutally cold weather, the spot market/ daily price for natural gas will increase significantly.

On February 28, 2025, ISO-NE launched the *Day-Ahead Ancillary Service Initiative* (DASI), replacing the Forward Reserve Market. This change introduced a new pricing structure for ancillary services, with costs now fluctuating daily based on market conditions. As a result, ancillary service costs have become higher and more volatile, particularly during periods of renewable intermittency and load uncertainty.

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. 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. Hunter's Mountain #1 is undergoing an ecological study. As of January 14, Hunter’s Mountain #2 (not the same project as the Montville WPCA account is attached to) was not approved by CSC, but a judge has ordered a review and further justification of that project’s non-approval. The CSC made a decision based on some false information and did not request clarification. It will be resubmitted for reconsideration to the CSC. Hunter’s Mountain #1 (the project that the WPCA and City of Windham are attached to is still

.....
moving forward. It has not yet been submitted to CSC. Eversource has this project in their feasibility study. Our best estimate right now is Q2 2027.

The WPCA personnel 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 (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 CTDEEP requested “hardening” response to climate change.

The Administrator is working with Adam Teff, TitanGen General Manager for electrical energy savings programs.

Superintendent Albertson reported that there were struggles at the plant with process control in January and February but there was significant improvement in March. There has also been five (5) less truck hauls this year. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Rand-Whitney to improve source thickening. In March there has also been 10% more sand in degrit operation—an overnight flow study was done regarding two (2) manholes. As well, a camera inspection will be done on Route 163 concerning the sand. The percentage of sand now is at a normal amount after having pulled 150 manholes and inspected 24 pump stations where nothing was found. Therefore, it means that the problem is closer to the plant.

i. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel submitted a monthly report of activities as of March 2026 as follows:

- (S) Kovacs Construction completed work on the Chesterfield Pump Station and station is operational. We will monitor. Further work will include sealing the well.
- (W) Cook Tower easements are filed on the land records. Pole is scheduled for installation on December 10. Three phase power will be connected shortly thereafter.
- (S) We are continuing to review 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. We also have access to a new mapping tool that the Town has purchased called NEARMap.
- (S) We continue to look into energy saving initiatives. The fuel cell was offline for 2 days which caused our monthly demand charge from approximately \$9k to \$19k. The demand charge resets each billing month.
- (W&S) Our accountant has retired but accounts receivable and payable are being processed in a timely manner. The position is posted and we have received a couple of good applications so far.
- (S) SBRs 3 and 5 experienced air diffuser failures in the piping system due to poor material quality. We have secured an inventory of new couplings to replace faulty ones as they fail.
- (W&S) We have received an inquiry from a potential developer for two parcels that are currently served by sewer but not water. While they are in our Exclusive Service Area (ESA) we have no water available nor are there any plans for such in the foreseeable future. SCWA is nearby and maybe able to service them, but we will need an official agreement in place and run it through the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC).

(S) = Sewer (W) = Water (W&S) = Water and Sewer

Administrator McDaniel reported on efforts with inflow infiltration, working with Planning & Zoning regarding upcoming plans that refer to 2,500-plus units and the status of Cook Tower. The new accountant is doing well and working with the complicated system. Repair work on two (2) manholes will begin tomorrow and will involve two (2) bypasses near Ft. Shantock and Route 32. After intervention, two (2) more manholes were found that are in need of repair. Superintendent Albertson reported about a draft report on nitrogen removal and State credits; the Plant has a 50% removal rate that is very high and is an indicator that it is doing well with process removal as credits that are sold for the same. Compliments were given to the Plant team regarding the lower degree of truck loads. Discussion was had by the Commission regarding the impact of the sewer

.....
system on expanding development. The Superintendent and the Administrator spoke to this topic about the potential of adding two (2) SBRs and having land the to do it, but it would require two (2) years from planning to completion. Also, leaking manhole completion is a task as its taking up capacity—60% capacity in dry conditions and with the snow and rain over past few months capacity was nearly maxed due to the amount of water in the system. The repair of the two (2) manholes frees capacity and routine camera inspection; visual inspection and cleaning of the pipes is upkeep done for the 62-mile system. The Superintendent and the Administrator responded to Commissioner questions about exceeding capacity that includes capacity to uses and contractual capacity. Quantifying maximum capacity use was deemed not appropriate at this time given the number of pending Town projects that include new builds from the State, designated areas per conservation development, and Town responsibilities for managing water consumption (that does not include the cost of its treatment) in addition to sewer extension.

j. Report from Mayor

Mayor Bunnell reported on the importance of the Town Plan of Development that is essential to determine a plan as well as funding from the State; ideally updating our plan to establish needs. He commended the Superintendent Albertson and Administrator McDaniel for the presentation by Attorney McCoy, a build that has a lot of possibles but is not yet concrete. Welcome was given to the new accountant Cynthia Thompson in addition to notice regarding a Town spending freeze effective today for all nonessential services and noncritical obligations. The freeze is a means to curb overtime, spiraling costs associated with Town parks and ultimately to get a better grip with work on the FY2026-2027 budget. Comment was made about the Plant sewer rate increase that is more than 10 years overdue and exploring deficits as opposed to total costs for the service which he supports. Chairperson Longton reported having spent two (2) hours last week in the Town Planner office looking at extensive Town needs for the next 15 or 50 years and the process for doing it.

k. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson thanked Mayor Bunnell for his kind words and spoke about Plant needs given the 8,000 employee expansion proposed by Electric Boat. The Town needs to expect/support proposed housing that is forcing a forecast for needs now, over the next 50 years or beyond. The best scenario is to control non-sewer water that gets into the Plant system, maximizing capacity for contractual obligations for water and sewer that must be supported. As well, chasing leaky pipes and manhole maintenance that will be inspected by the subcontractor who is aware of them and will give us feedback.

l. Old Business -- None

m. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the FY2027 Sewer CIP.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Approve the *Capital Improvement Plan for Sewer* for the fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$700,000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars).
Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR NO. 2026-02: THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to Approve the *Capital Improvement Plan for Sewer* for the fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$700,000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commission Miceli. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported that everything was included in the Water CIP due to awareness of constraints, resources, bonding, and State funds or grants. The \$700,000 amount is inclusive of all projects this year. **Roll Call vote: In favor: Vice-Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Miceli, Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

2. To Consider and Act on the FY 2027 Sewer Budget.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Approve the *Budget for Sewer* for the fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$7,334,013.00 (Seven Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, Thirteen Dollars).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR NO. 2026-03: THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Approve the *Budget for Sewer* for the fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$7,334,013.00 (Seven Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, Thirteen Dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commission Miceli. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel explained having looked at the last three (3) years of accounts and the eight (8) months of this fiscal year without an accountant. Revenues have been cut back on actuals to not overstate them, and expenses are being watched closely. Deficit mode still exists and some savings is being used. There were not a lot of connections fees that buys into and supports the system. Payroll data and insurance benefits were received from the Finance Department. Factored into the budget was the new employee whose job description is being considered by TARP at the end of this month. The Administrator responded to a question concerning connection fees that requires a \$35 application fee beforehand. **Roll Call vote: In favor: Vice-Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Miceli, Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

3. To Consider and Act on a Motion to revise sewer rates.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to set the date of May 4, 2026 (5:45 p.m.) for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed sewer usage rate schedule as follows: 12.5% increase effective July 1, 2026 and 11.2% increase effective January 1, 2027. The Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall Chambers.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR NO. 2026-04: THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to set the date of May 4, 2026 (5:45 p.m.) for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed sewer usage rate schedule as follows: 12.5% increase effective July 1, 2026 and 11.2% increase effective January 1, 2027. The Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall Chambers. **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel remarked that the Town is behind in its sewer rates than other towns that are like in size—a chart was of this data was provided in the meeting packet. Options are to ease into the rate increase in six (6) month increments or increasing it all at once at 20%. It was also noted was that not everyone is a quarterly user and their rates would be affected. **Roll Call vote: In favor: Vice-Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Miceli, Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

Amended Motion. SAR NO. 2026-04: THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to set the date of May 4, 2026 (5:45 p.m.) for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed sewer usage rate schedule as follows: Residential from \$80.00/quarter to \$100.00 per quarter; Commercial from \$.004981/gallon to \$.006226/gallon. The Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall Chambers. **Motion** by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: none. **Roll Call vote: In favor: Vice-Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Miceli, Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote: 3-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

n. Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning

Chairperson Longton reported on an interesting Planning & Zoning Commission special meeting held last Thursday, April 2nd concerning housing in the Massapequa and Fort Shantok area. The WPCA met with planning leadership developers who were looking for a commitment from the Town in order to pursue the State for funding. The Commission was unwilling to commit to the same. The attorney who made the presentation for the proposed housing development mentioned 8,000 jobs forthcoming by Electric Boat. What was not explained was that only 4,000 jobs would

.....
be in this area; the remaining 4000 jobs would be located at Quonset Point in Rhode Island. It was also noted that the City of New London also plans to build housing. The Chairperson reported that the attorney did not answer specific questions that displeased P&Z resulting in their not getting the commitment they wanted. It was made clear to the development attorney that the hold story needed to be told. Yes, housing in Town is needed but cannot be accommodated for 8,000 workers and their families.

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson reported that he and Administrator McDaniel will review water billing from Groton Utilities from last year and compare it to current usage. The Administrator checks each meter usage for possible leakage identified by a sudden increase in demand. Based on the March GU invoice, the water supply is functioning properly.

b. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel reported that the Plant continues to do water audits making sure that the billing is correct and noted that billing for private hydrants was not being done. Some properties that had private hydrants on them are charged for flushing the hydrants but maintenance of them is not provided. The Administrator also noted that the water budget needs to be forwarded to Town Council Chair May.

c. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported on compliments to the Chief Operator and the Assistant Operator. When the Engineer originally came on board it was for a 1,000-unit residential development and he discovered a low pressure in the Derry Hill area. The water operators were commended for identifying that low functioning that was not consistent with normal functioning. The Engineer complimented the operators and the Plant.

d. Old Business -- None

e. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the FY2027 Water Budget.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To approve the *Budget for the Water Supply* for fiscal year 2026 – 2027 in the amount of \$1,609,808.00 (One Million Six Hundred Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eight and Eight (8) Dollars.) (*Correction made to this motion: it was originally 2025-2026*).

SAR NO. 05: THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve the *Budget for the Water Supply* for fiscal year 2026 – 2027 in the amount of \$1,609,808.00 (One Million Six Hundred Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eight and Eight (8) Dollars.) To approve the *Budget for the Water Supply* for fiscal year 2026 – 2027 in the amount of \$1,609,808.00 (One Million Six Hundred Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eight and Eight (8) Dollars.) **Motion** by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Miceli. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel explained the process and the need for the modification. Questions were asked about the acreage and the current zoning of the parcels. **Roll Call vote: In favor: Vice-Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Miceli, Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion Approved.**

f. Reports from SCWA – No meeting

Administrator McDaniel reported having received a call for a curbed cap that was not ours. The work was done and notification made on the same.

III. Remarks

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

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

b. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Terry asked whether the Plant would be locked into a 2-year commitment as proposed by Attorney McCoy. Administrator McDaniel responded “yes” if there is a commitment we must comply and if another project comes up we can only use uncommitted water. No other entity has a guarantee and if a project is approved from our office it is first come, first served. It also makes sense as to who has the better offer, but the WPCA approves who gets the capacity. Superintendent Albertson remarked that talks must be had with the engineers regarding flows and how to use existing infrastructure. Current contracts with the casino, Rand-Whitney and SCWA are one-third each and talks may need to be had about it.

c. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Terry; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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
UNDER “RESOURCES” ON THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**