

Approved: _____

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission
Thursday, September 4, 2014
Town Council Chambers – Montville Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

WPCA Chairman May called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Schober, Siragusa, Thorn (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), and WPCA Chairman/Town Council Liaison Timothy May. Also present was Administrator Brian Lynch, Superintendent Michael Didato, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Commissioner Gary Murphy was absent as he was at work per Mayor McDaniel.

d. Alterations to the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Schober to remove Agenda Item 1.N.1, *Discussion on policy for donations to civic organizations* for review of draft policy by commissioners; motion was not seconded.

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 4, 2014.

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2014, made by Commissioner Schober; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa; discussion, none; voice vote, 4-0, all in favor; motion carried.

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission.

Administrator Lynch referred to the plant operator resignation letter in the electronically submitted packet. Mayor McDaniel spoke to the denial letter from the DEP concerning the anaerobic digester for the treatment facility. He explained the DEP's reluctance/concerns that have been addressed and resubmitted for consideration.

g. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three- minute limit.

Town Councilor May asked three times for remarks. There were none.

h. Report from Commission Attorney on Matters Referred -- None

i. Report from Administration Division

Administrator Lynch submitted an activity report for August 2014 that was included in the packet as follows:

1. Our auditor (Scott Bassett) has completed reviewing our accounts from last fiscal year. He examined all of our accounts and found there to be no discrepancies. The new accounting system made for a smooth transition into the new fiscal year.
2. I spoke with Greg Leonard from SCWA about their proposal to connect the High School to their water system. The SCWA proposal is just for extending their water line to the edge of the school property, taping the water line, installing a curb valve, and fixing Old Colchester Road. They will install a 5,000 gallon storage tank. The High School will have to absorb all the other costs associated with the hook up. Running the water line from the road to the school is not in their proposal. Excavation and paving and installing a meter pit will be at the school's expense. Also, SCWA will not provide fire protection. They are installing a 2" water line for domestic service only. The Town of Montville will have to give up its right to that part of their Exclusive Service Area.
3. I spoke to several Water Pollution Control Authorities to see if they have a policy regarding giving contributions to their communities. Most of the Authorities that were our size or smaller did not give out contributions. Large Utilities like Norwich, Groton, and towns that have private operators sponsor events and community projects as a way of giving back to the community.
4. One of our operators (Marcel Antonini) handed in his notice. Marcel did not give a reason for his departure.
5. I have spoken to Dave Murphy of Milone & MacBroom about a Water Supply Plan. He also agreed that the plan we submitted in 2007 is outdated and that it would be better to start again. He estimated that it will cost around \$15,000 to put together a new plan. He told me that his engineering firm has resolved the same situations for other communities.

Administrator Lynch added that consideration of the water supply plan would be added to the next Commission meeting agenda. The scope of service was added to Dropbox for the Commissioners' review. He also expounded on Item 2 of his report speaking about an engineer that would need to be hired for an extension to Tyl Middle School, the lack of fire protection, and the ESA regarding the same.

j. Report from Operations Division

Superintendent Didato submitted a report for August 2014 that was included in the package, as follows:

1. With the available data to date the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) continues to be in full compliance to its NPDES permit.
2. There were no treatment plant odor complaints last month.
3. Sludge thickness maintained an averaged 4.9 % for last month.
4. We averaged a very low 42 lbs. /day of nitrogen in our discharge over the last month. I received a check from the DEEP in the amount of \$24,695 for staying well below the set limits for nitrogen.
5. We pumped down one our SBR's. This effectively reduces our treatment capacity by 1/16th. Our objective was to inspect the diffusers and purge system. **Update:** It turned into a real big project. Over 2,000 plastic disks had cracked and needed to be replaced. These 9" disks experienced a time related material failure brought on by a combination of heat, time, and the thousands of flex cycles these plates undergo. Ultimately, we replaced

all the rubber membranes, threaded rings, and backing disks. We now have SBR #1 on line and its functioning properly. As of the writing of this report, we have emptied SBR #4 for inspection. We found a whole new set of issues. I have been working with the vendor. However, I have reached out to the company to have their main engineer visit our facility to observe and offer advice on why their product is failing.

6. We had a potable water service connection that got pulled out of water main on Powerhouse Road while performing catch basin work. The flow of water was stopped by turning off the corporation valve still in the main. During this time, we came across a problem trying to isolate and shut off the water service to this road. We are currently trying to resolve this problem for future needs.
7. We had a major electrical breaker trip over the holiday weekend. Our generator provided power to the main facility. The smell of burning electrical wiring was detected at the CL&P pole. As of this report, CL&P is still trying to figure out what happened.

Supervisor Didato gave more detail about Items 5 and 6 of his report. He added that he spoke with the DPH agent about the water supply plan that needs to be upgraded and brought up to date. Commissioner May commented on the recent water main break in New London and asked how much water was used. Administrator Lynch that the communities who responded to the plight will meet to discuss the water supply so it is equitable to all.

k. Report from the Mayor

Mayor McDaniel had no other report that what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

l. Report from special or sub-committees -- None

m. Report from Engineers

Administrator Lynch commented that there are change orders that he is monitoring.

n. Old Business

1. Discussion on a policy for donations to civic organizations.

Motion made by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner May to discuss a policy for donations to civic organizations; discussion, none; voice vote, 4-0; all in favor; motion carried.

As he said in his August monthly report, Administrator Lynch stated that he spoke with more than a dozen other Town's concerning the proposed policy as charged by the Commission. He found that they do not give to nonprofits. Administrator Lynch said the proposed policy presented to the Commission is what was best if the Town wanted to consider it. If the policy is approved, monetary donation limits would be set.

o. New Business -- None

p. Reports/referrals from Planning & Zoning -- None

q. Payment of bills -- None

1. Water Commission

- a. Report from Sub-Committees -- None
- b. Report from Engineers -- None
- c. Old Business -- None
- d. New Business --None
- e. Payment of Bills – None.
- f. Executive Session --None
- g. Remarks from the Public

Town Councilor May asked three times for remarks. Uncasville resident, Teri Bruce thanked Administrator Lynch for his due diligence and follow regarding the issue of nonprofit contributions by the Commission.

- h. Remarks from Commission Members -- None
- i. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Siragusa, seconded by Commissioner Schober to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.; discussion, none; voice vote, 5-0; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville