

Water Pollution Control Commission

Town of Clinton, 54 East Main St., Clinton, CT 06413

Green Room

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Matthew Kennedy (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Green Room of the Andrews Memorial Town Hall. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Matthew Kennedy (Chair), Laura Peterson (Vice Chair) Hal Dolan, Carl Neri, Al Walker.

Absent: Chris Guelke, Omar Francis

2. Recognition of Guests

M. Kennedy welcomed First Selectman Bruce Farmer, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Peter Neff, Town Counsel John Bennett, CDM Smith Engineer Kristie Wagner and CDM Smith Consultant Mary Jane Engle.

3. Approval of Minutes

L. Peterson made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Jan. 24, 2017 regular meeting.

H. Dolan seconded the motion.

In Favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, H. Dolan, A. Walker, C. Neri.

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

H. Dolan made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Feb. 22, 2017 special meeting.

L. Peterson seconded the motion.

In Favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, C. Neri, H. Dolan.

Opposed: None

Abstained: A. Walker

Motion Carried: 4-0-0

4. Correspondence

None

(Omar Francis arrived 7:05 PM)

5. Old Business

a. Rocky Ledge Water Main Update- B. Farmer introduced Town Counsel John Bennet to the Water Pollution Control Commission (WPCC). Farmer then gave a synopsis of the Rocky Ledge Water Main (RLWM) project from the start of the town's and DPW's involvement to today. In summary: early in 2016 the WPCC consulted with Neff and delegated to DPW the job of managing the surveying, engineering and doing a cost analysis of the RLWM project (with design engineer CDM Smith). A portion of that job was to research low cost loan options available from the Department of Public Health (DPH). DPW and the First Selectman also met with various agencies and the CT Water Co. to be certain that the project will meet the criteria and guidelines of DHS funding, which currently stands at \$4.4 million in long term financing at a rate of 2%. At this point the design of

the project is complete, including adding individual house connections that were not part of the original scope. The Bonding Commission of the town approved a \$4.8 million appropriation to fund the RLWM project as part of an \$11 million bond package. The bond package received the approval of the Board of Selectmen (BoS) in March and then went to the Board of Finance (BoF) for their approval on March 20, 2017. At that meeting Neff and Farmer presented the bonding package and were met with many questions concerning the RLWM. While the bonding package was approved by the BoF, Farmer and Neff decided later to remove the RLWM funding from the package because they felt that there are still many issues that need to be addressed and answered before this project would be accepted by the public at a Town Meeting and approved at referendum. Neff stated that the RLWM funding could come back up for consideration in the Fall of 2017.

Farmer explained that the BoF requested that the WPCC come and meet with them to address their questions. Some of the questions that came up at the BoF were:

Who is paying for what (homeowner's vs town contribution)?

How is the work paid for 'upfront'?

How will the costs be paid back?

What is the time frame for repayment to the town?

Who is responsible for overseeing the project?

Will homeowners be picking up the full cost or just partial as it applies to their own homes?

Will homeowners be required to upgrade septic?

How does this project answer to the consent order?

Farmer advised the WPCC to contact the BoF and get a list of their specific questions. It was noted that WPCC has been working on many of the above items. Farmer asked the WPCC to create a specific and concrete timeline of activity to address the issues cited by the BoF so that the project can proceed in an organized manner. Timely project checkpoints were discussed.

Benefit assessments were discussed as they relate to both the RLWM project and future sewerage projects. Bennett advised proceeding with Benefit Assessments to provide information to homeowners about eventual costs of that project; amortization, bonding and associated continuing costs. Neri questioned the water cost compared to sewer, and Wagner answered that the estimate for this project was that the water main extension would cost roughly half of what a sewer project would have cost.

Questions arose about the Ct Water Co. (CWC) funding. The CWC has not made a firm commitment regarding how much they will donate to the project. Can we ask if CWC has a partial participation rate/formula for reimbursement? Farmer and Neff will consult with CWC for more information. Farmer will request, in writing, a tiered participation commitment from CWC based on number of connections.

Discussion followed as to how to ensure that homeowners will properly abandon their wells after the water main goes in. Neff stated that DPW may oversee that process (wells must be abandoned by a licensed well driller).

WPCC discussed implementing a policy to ensure homeowners comply with the project and hook up. Wagner reminded the WPCC that in order to satisfy the 1997 consent order, DEEP expects the Town to enforce homeowner connection to the water main and abandonment of wells. Bennett suggested the WPCC contact the CWC to see if they have any information from previous similar projects, but all acknowledged that the Consent Order aspect of this project is unusual.

Future Public Information topics:

A. Benefits of hooking up to the new water main:

Contaminated well water issues - eliminated

Current and future private well expenses and issues- eliminated

Expensive water treatment systems - eliminated

Clean and reliable water service increases value of home

-Bennett will speak with an appraiser from Old Saybrook about comparable values of homes with and without city water, and provide appraiser contact information to Kennedy.

Fire hydrants in neighborhood reduce fire insurance costs

Poor pump strength or water force eliminated; consistent and reliable flow guaranteed

Water service regardless of power outages

Water is much less expensive (approx. 50% less) of sewerage the same area.

Increases land area available for home improvements. Septics can now be moved or upgraded providing more usable land area in yards (WPCC to continue working on phased plan for septic improvements in all study areas that are not slated for sewerage).

B. Make sure homeowners understand they are not picking up the entire cost of the project.

C. The more people that commit the less expensive the project becomes

Discussion as to what timeline and goals WPCC should commit to:

Suggestions:

Bond presentation Fall 2017

Bid packages go out Spring 2018

Project begins Summer 2018

Items that WPCC needs to complete:

Meeting with BoF to clarify proposal

A policy or ordinance for to ensure homeowner compliance

Must be approved by Town Council and the BoS

Repayment discussion

Benefit assessment vs cost of individual installs.

Public information

Public acceptance and approval

Homeowner commitment

Neff suggested the WPCC have a workshop style meeting dedicated to completing the necessary policy.

Engle asked Bennett if a policy can be enforced and Bennett stated eventually policy would have to become an ordinance to be enforceable.

(Farmer and Bennett left the meeting at 8:35 PM)

(Neri left the meeting at 8:37 PM)

b. Lagoon closure update- Wagner reported that the closure plan was delivered to Oswald Inglese of DEEP on Feb. 14, 2017. The task of reviewing the plan was assigned to Mike Hart. If there is no word DEEP's opinion by April 20th, follow up phone calls will be made. Wagner gave the WPCC two copies of the closure plan. Neff said that he has a large amount of suitable fill materials available which should lower the actual cost of the project. Dolan asked how soon the project could start and Neff replied he could mobilize as soon as two weeks after DEEP approval. Wagner was asked if she had heard anything about the WPCC request to use the balance of the Unilever settlement money for other WPCC projects. Wagner said DEEP initially is in support of the idea but will have to investigate whether the request would suit SEP regulations attached to the funding.

6. New Business

a. Invoices

L. Peterson made a **motion** to approve ECL invoice #53132 for \$152.50 for testing performed at the Indian River well. H. Dolan seconded the motion.

In favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, H. Dolan, O. Francis, A. Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

L. Peterson made a **motion** to approve ECL invoice #53188 for \$4185.70 for testing performed at the Clinton Landfill & Houses. H. Dolan seconded the motion.

In favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, H. Dolan, O. Francis, A. Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

b. Changes to Carmody Reporting- Walter gave a brief report on changes that have been instituted to the on line reporting system that pumpers are required to use. The changes should provide more complete information on the systems they have pumped.

L. Peterson made a **motion** to table items 6c, 6d, 6e and 6g until the next regular meeting of the WPCC. A. Walker seconded the motion.

In favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, H. Dolan, O. Francis, A. Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

7. Chairman's and Commissioner's Comments

General discussion of the outcome of the WPCC budget.

At the last BoF meeting the decision was made to cut the WPCC request by \$10,000 leaving the final budget figure at \$84,460 for the 2017/2018. The professional line was not changed from last year's figure of \$25,000. The budget will go to a public hearing on April 12 and to a budget referendum on May 10. Dolan gave Walter a copy of tasks and goals the WPCC had established in 2014.

8. Adjournment

L. Peterson made a **motion** to adjourn at 9:22PM. H. Dolan seconded the motion.

In favor: M. Kennedy, L. Peterson, H. Dolan, O. Francis, A. Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion Carried: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Walter
Recording Clerk