

## **WPCA- Minutes – 1.16.2024**

The Water Pollution Control Authority Regular Meeting minutes of January 16, 2024.

Present: Donald Mayland, Chairman; Charles Humes, Superintendent; John Whalen; Jim Rutledge; Robin Leech; Pat Hackett; Emily Egan; members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

R. Leech made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “Discussion if the sewer plant is capable of handling the new housing units to be built at the Dresser Woods property on Railroad Street.” J. Rutledge seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

J. Rutledge made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Regular Meeting. R. Leech seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

C. Humes gave a brief update on the status of the pump replacement at the Interlaken pump station. The pumps failed on 12/17/2023. The first pump was replaced on 12/20/2023 and the second on 1/10/2024. Everything is up and working at this time.

C. Humes mentioned the results from a recent OSHA inspection and what the next steps would be to comply with the violations that were cited.

C. Humes mentioned that the plant failed a zinc inspection again. After multiple water tests, from different locations, the zinc levels are still high. The DEEP mentioned our plant is on the radar with the EPA, because of the zinc violations and we need to figure out the source. The believe the source may be coming from Aquarion’s Town water, as zinc is used as an industrial treatment for corrosion. C. Humes will be contacting Aquarion.

Relining project: The relining project is very expensive and may not be the only reason for infiltration. C. Humes and J. Whalen suggested that the laterals may be a source of the problem.

C. Rand mentioned he had met with USDA to discuss long term loans to pay for the sewer plant upgrades and to finalize the relining project. USDA would require an engineering firm to conduct a study to figure out what needs to be completed. USDA would cover 50% of the study. A USDA loan is at a very low interest rate for 40 years. C. Rand would like to keep this discussion open with the WPCA. The WPCA agreed that they would like to set up an interview with Tighe & Bond to discuss future planning.

C. Humes mentioned that the plant will need to renew their permit from the state by 2025. He was under the impression that an engineering firm would need to be hired to help with the permit. J. Whalen stated he had never had used an engineering firm to renew the permit.

There was some preliminary discussion about rates increases.

P. Hackett mentioned that the IWWC would like approval from the WPCA that the sewer plant is capable of handling the new housing units to be built at the Dresser Woods property on Railroad Street. P. Hackett made the motion to approve the sewer plants capacity for the new units at the Dresser Woods property on Railroad Street. R. Leech seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn: 9:54am