

## **WPCA – Minutes – 3.19.2024**

The Water Pollution Control Authority meeting minutes of March 19, 2024.

**Present:** Donald Mayland, Chairman; John Whalen; Jim Rutledge; Pat Hackett; Robin Leech; Charles Humes, Superintendent, Emily Egan, Secretary; Curtis Rand, First Selectman, Tighe & Bond Engineering Firm, members of the public. **Absent:** David Bayersdorfer.

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

D. Mayland made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “Tighe & Bond: Permit Renewal & Engineering Services Proposal Discussion” and “Sewer Connectivity Questions from Land Use, Tax Collector and Assessor.” P. Hackett seconded, and the agenda was approved as amended.

P. Hackett made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting. J. Rutledge seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Erin Moore, Senior Project Manager for Tighe & Bond, offered suggestions to:

- Assist the WPCA with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the new permit requirements, due Sept.
- Assist with our zinc violations, which would include evaluation of the existing data and provide process recommendations for treatment plants
- Discussed future use or abandonment of our sand filters
- Create a proposal for collection system rehabilitation, pipelining and I&I elimination.

The WPCA members, First Selectman and Tighe & Bond discussed options to finance the suggested improvements to the facility and system. To qualify for Rural Development funding the WPCA would need a Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Report. Tighe & Bond will work on putting together proposals for the suggested improvements.

St. Mary’s Church, 12 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville, has proposed to upgrade the current kitchen to a Class 4. They would need to install a grease trap to complete this upgrade. They proposed to install an AGRU Stainless Automatic Grease Recovery (Big Dipper System) unit in the kitchen versus an in-ground grease trap. The WPCA would need to give permission allowing a variance for the size of the unit used on the property. P. Hackett made a motion to approve the installation of the proposed grease trap, with the stipulation that if the kitchen size increases, they would need to come back to WPCA and monitoring/cleaning must be done on a regular schedule. J. Rutledge seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Report from the Superintendent**

C. Humes reported that the Wake Robin Inn is on the market, and potential buyers are looking to increase the number of guest rooms from 39 rooms to 66 and add a 7,000 sq. ft event space. They are requesting preliminary approval from the WPCA to add the additional rooms before making the purchase. This discussion was tabled.

7 Holley Street, Lakeville – The sewer line runs underneath the building. Several inquiries have been made by potential buyers. Questions include: Specifically, how the sewer under the building would affect the future owner? Are we allowing partition walls in that section of the building? Whose responsibility is it if something happens to the main under the building? The WPCA agreed that no construction on the building should be within the 12 ft. right-of-way on the property. If any structural change affects the sewer line, the owner would be responsible.

Interlaken pump station – the generator needed a new fuel tank. C. Humes replaced the tank last week.

Abby Conroy (Land Use Administrator) and Kayla Johnson (Assessor) joined the meeting to discuss the process of updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and the sewer area map per state mandate. During this process, some houses have been flagged by the company as being in the service area but not connected to the Town’s sewer system. Homeowners were then notified by C. Humes to schedule a dye test to confirm or deny if the building is connected. 14 properties were confirmed to be on the system after the dye test; two properties did not

respond to the letter and they were notified that they would be considered on the sewer system and billed accordingly. The WPCA approved the additional properties be added to the sewer billing.

There was a discussion about 17 Railroad Street, Salisbury. Many departments in Town Hall were under the impression that the property was connected to sewer. John Whalen, former Superintendent, wrote a letter dated Nov. 29, 2005, that states "after dye testing 17 Railroad Street, it was found to be connected to the East Railroad Street sewer, not Indian Cave Road." In November 2005, when the Salisbury Housing Trust was in process of obtaining a well permit for the duplex at 10&12 Indian Cave Road, there is documentation that no sewer line goes through the Indian Cave Road property and are all more than 75 ft away from the proposed well site. The current owner who has applied for permits through TAHD, Building, ZBA and Planning and Zoning, has stated on all applications that the building is connected to Town sewer. The same owner recently questioned the town why the property is being billed for sewer if they are not connected. C. Humes performed two separate dye tests at the location, and dye was not found in our sewer system. On a third attempt to figure out the if the property was connected, the property owner did not allow them on the property. The property has approximately 10 years of unpaid sewer bills at this time.

The Tax office is asking for guidance on how the WPCA would like to go about handling the past due bills. The WPCA requested that owner prove to TAHD what type of system is on the property. The unpaid bills will remain open until TAHD further investigates the situation.

**Adjourn:** 10:36am