

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 8th, 2015
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT. Acting Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Acting Chairman, Steve DiGiovanna, David Jacques,
Dave Murphy, Carol Russell, Roger Spencer, Dave Zoller

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Brad Kargl, Municipal Utility Engineer
Jim Levandoski, Flanders Fire Chief

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Dec 10 2015 AT 1:40 AM PM
William Galperin
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

ABSENT: Mark Nickerson, Chairman, Joe Mingo

1. Call to Order

Acting Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Seery noted that Ms. Russell had passed out a memo at the end of the previous meeting and had asked that the item be on this agenda. He asked that they add Item 10. b. Proposed Coordination with CT DPH Re Water Fluoridation Legislative Changes to the agenda.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Russell moved to add Item 10. b. Proposed Coordination with CT DPH Re Water Fluoridation Legislative Changes to the agenda.

Mr. Bond seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. Approval of Minutes

▪ **Regular Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2015**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2015 as presented.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Bond

3. Delegations

Mr. Seery called for delegations.

Ernie Callegari, 40 Cardinal Road said that they had approved the hydrant on Cardinal Road at a recent meeting and that the work has already been done. He thanked them for doing it so quickly. He asked how they would next proceed regarding the water extension.

Pavlos Passas, 48 Cardinal Road noted that the hydrant that was installed has a plastic bag on it that states that it is not in service and asked when it would be in service.

4. Cardinal Road Water Main Extension

Mr. Seery said that Jim Levandoski, the Flanders Fire Chief was present this evening and would explain the issues surrounding the fire in July on Cardinal Road.

Flanders Fire Chief Levandoski said that when they fought the fire in July on Cardinal Road that the issue was not the water – there were huge amounts of water available with more pressure than they would need. As far as having water run up the road and more hydrants, the real issue depends on the timing and the equipment and people. He said that they believe that the fire on Cardinal Road had an hour and a half head start on it by the time it was noticed and someone called the department. This really is a timing issue as there was more than enough water. He noted as an example that there was a fire on Morris Lane and it had the same result even though they also had lots of water and equipment. It is not where the hydrants are as they have the hose to lay to get to the fire and it can be put down in minutes, 500 feet, 1000 feet, they have the hose. The 5" hose that they laid for the Cardinal Road fire did not tax the capability that they have with respect to hose.

Mr. Bragaw noted that the logistics of the hydrant being across the street; across Chesterfield Road which is busy was something that they felt needed to be addressed.

Mr. Levandoski said that he is a volunteer fireman but his job is a policeman and that the hydrant being across the street has its own traffic issues as they cannot have people driving over it and big trucks that cannot stop in time can potentially cause the hose to burst with their weight. The hydrant being placed across Chesterfield Road on Cardinal Road makes it much better and makes it such that there is no timing delay. He said that he timed it and that it took six minutes to get to the fire and that as with any fire, their first priority is to get any people out and then attend to the property.

Mr. Seery asked that they address the bag on the new hydrant that was installed on Cardinal Road.

Mr. Kargl said that they have flushed the system there and tested the water and that it is at the lab now. They expect the results back in a few days and expect that the hydrant will be in service by the end of this week.

Ms. Russell asked Mr. Levandoski, when considering extending the water into the neighborhood what the optimal number of hydrants would be for that area or is the hydrant that is there enough or would they want more, closer together.

Mr. Levandoski said that they have the ability to use their equipment and people with the right timing to get to a fire and do what they need to do. Using Grassy Hill as an example, he said that with the one hydrant and all things aligning they can get to the fire and have water and do what they need to do. With the new hydrant installed across the street on Cardinal Road he said that he could not see any net gain in time as the issue of the traffic would be gone. Further he said that they had Flanders Fire, Niantic, Oswegatchie Fire and Chesterfield Fire at this fire and with the head start that it had, there was no way to save the property.

Mr. Murphy said that he thinks that what he is saying is that the hydrants would just be an added benefit to the properties.

Mr. Seery said that he has spoken with Mr. Kargl and Mr. Nickerson about this and if there is continued interest they would hold an informational session with more detailed information and dollar costs.

Mr. Bragaw said that in the survey that they sent out that they had provided information on the costs which came from a contractor who does this work.

Mr. Kargl noted and explained the preliminary design that was done and said that it appears feasible and the hydrants would be every 700' or so. Septic systems and wells would have to be located and they would have to figure where exactly the line would be run.

Mr. Zoller said that on the survey that they had sent out that they had 38 residences and there are 39. He said that he thinks that they missed 2 Hummingbird.

Mr. Kargl said that he would be sure to get the information to them. He noted that the estimated cost that they have come up with so far is \$809,000 and that the proper format is for the Commission to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as it is not for this Commission to advance the project. This Commission would hold an informational meeting so that they could make a determination of what they would want to do and to answer questions that the property owners might have. An informational session could be held at 6:30 PM just prior to their Regular Meeting on January 26, 2016.

5. Finance Director Report

Mr. Seery noted that the Finance Director's report was in the packet they had received this evening. There were no comments.

6. Billing Adjustment Requests – Attachment A

Mr. Kargl said that there were no adjustments.

7. Approval of Bills – Attachment B

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Regional Interconnection bills.

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Regional Interconnection bills: Tighe & Bond Inv. #1406103 in the amount of \$3,248.27 and Mid Atlantic Storage Systems, Inv. #10180-10 in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Water Main Improvements bill.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Water Main Improvement bill: N. Wood General Contractor, Inv. date 11/4/15 in the amount of \$3900.00.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

8. Well 1A and 2A Treatment Study Recommendation

Mr. Kargl said that the panel had interviewed three contractors in order to find one to provide engineering services for the Well 1A and 2A Treatment Study. The three were Tighe & Bond, Wright Pierce and Woodward and Curran. They all scored well but the recommendation for most qualified went to Tighe & Bond and Wright Pierce. After further investigation and discussion on greensand filtration Tighe & Bond received the overall recommendation. They are asking for a motion to authorize the Chairman, along with staff to negotiate a scope of services fee with Tighe & Bond to provide services for the Treatment Study.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Zoller moved to authorize the Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commission along with staff to negotiate a scope of services and fee with Tighe & Bond, Inc. to provide engineering services for the Well 1A and 2A Treatment Study. Any contract regarding said services and fee shall be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Kargl said that they would also have to, once they have this information, send it to the DPH to qualify for the DWSRF program. He asked that they make a motion for that.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Murphy moved: BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Chairman of the Water and sewer Commission (the Town of East Lyme duly designated Water Pollution Control Authority) is hereby authorized to execute and file applications and agreements on behalf of the Town of East Lyme Water and Sewer Commission with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for loans under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program pursuant to the provisions of Section 22a-475 through 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, and execute on behalf of the Town of East Lyme Water and Sewer Commission all the applications, instruments and documents and accept payments and do all other things that may be necessary or desirable for planning, design and construction of water treatment improvements for Well 1A and 2A.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

9. Water Project Updates

▪ **Bride Lake Filter Plant – Filter Refurbishment**

Mr. Kargl explained that the intent is to refurbish two filters each year. They did two last year and would be doing two more this year. The materials cost is \$55,235 and they would also need to select a contractor. He suggested as not many are interested in doing this type of work that they work with the same contractor and that he would also ask them to meet the prices of last year with perhaps a very small increase. He noted that Ms. Johnson had advised that they obtain the funding from Capital line #20 – Unallocated and move it to line #9 Chemical Storage. They would need a motion to do this.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to allocate \$55,235.00 from the Water Construction Project Fund Undesignated and transfer to account 62-70-006-500-011 (Chlorination/Water System Supply) to purchase materials including filter media and hardware from Hungerford & Terry, Inc. for the rehabilitation of two greensand filters at the Bride Lake Treatment Plant.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

Mr. Bond asked about the vessels inside and what shape they were in when they pulled the materials out.

Mr. Kargl said that they had to be replaced and that they are now all stainless steel.

Ms. Russell asked about the lifespan of the filters.

Mr. Kargl said that it is still 15 to 20 years.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

10. Communications

▪ **See Correspondence Log**

The correspondence log was available for review.

▪ **Proposed Coordination w/CT DPH Re Water Fluoridation Legislative Changes**

Ms. Russell said that she had provided them with a copy of her memo at the end of the last meeting and that she would like them to support forwarding it to the CT DPH in an effort to make them aware of the information that she had provided within the memo and see if they would consider changing their legislation regarding fluoride in drinking water.

Mr. Seery asked Ms. Russell if she was asking the Commission to request a moratorium on fluoride.

Ms. Russell said that she wants them to forward her memo and ask for a review and comments on the new information that she has provided.

Mr. Seery said that we do have Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) as our Regional Health Representatives and they have access to all of the up to date data as does the State.

Ms. Russell said that she spoke with Mr. Mansfield at LLHD who told her that it is a State level responsibility and that they are deferring to the State authorities on this matter. She said that LLHD will not take the lead on this. She also noted that they had an intern this past summer who has done extensive research on this and who will get back to her on it once it is completed.

****MOTION (8)**

Ms. Russell moved that her memo dated November 17, 2015 is forwarded by the Commission to the CT DPH for review as presented.

Mr. Bond seconded the motion.

Mr. Zoller said that he would like them to strike the second paragraph and the last paragraph as they should not be supporting or ordering a moratorium.

Mr. Seery asked if Ms. Russell would amend her motion and Mr. Bond would amend his second to make the requested changes and delete those two paragraphs.

Ms. Russell said that she does not agree with striking those paragraphs and further that she is only presenting them with the option of a moratorium until they review the new data that she has provided.

Mr. Zoller said that it directly asks for an immediate moratorium. He asked with respect to this information that she is presenting, why obstetricians are not beating down their door to do something – they easily pay \$100,000 a year in malpractice insurance.

Ms. Russell continued to reiterate the studies –

Mr. Seery said that he felt that they had adequate discussion and as Ms. Russell did not wish to amend her motion as requested, he called for a vote on the motion.

Vote: 2 – 6 – 0. Motion failed.

11. Chairman's Report

Mr. Seery said that there was no report.

12. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

There were no comments.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

Mr. Kargl reported that the installation of the Park Place/Village Crossing sewers is scheduled to begin the week of December 14, 2015. The sewers were redesigned to run more directly along the southern leg of the Park Place loop from the development to the easement and main trunk line rather than following the northern leg. The attorney is reviewing the signed easement language that they received. This may not be completed until next spring.

Mr. Murphy suggested that a bond be posted.

c. Operating Budget Review

Mr. Bragaw said that he has provided them with the updated information on the operational budgets and that things so far have been tracking well, although it is still early in the year. He said that he would keep them updated.

Mr. Bragaw said that they are looking to do something for Mr. Poola who is retiring in early January. They are looking to do it during the day at the O & M Building and will send out information so that the Commissioners could attend.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Seery called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (9)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to adjourn the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:25 PM.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary

Motion (8)

Motion
Haired

November 17, 2015

To: My Fellow Members of the EL Water & Sewer Commission

Fr: Carol Russell

Re: Proposed Coordination with CT DPH Re Water Fluoridation Legislative Changes

As you are aware, HHS issued a final rule on April 27, 2015 which reduced the CDC guidance for optimal fluoride in drinking water to a set level of 0.7 mg/L. The standard mandated under current CT law is a range of 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L. Pending changes to the State statute, CT DPH has advised a minimum fluoride level of 0.8 mg/L must be maintained to comply with State law.

As the CT DPH revisits the State fluoride statute, I am asking your support for the addition of language to provide a mechanism for a moratorium when such an action is deemed to be in the best interest of the public health. Further, the new language should establish an immediate moratorium while a panel of experts is convened to evaluate the available research regarding fluoride's potential to effect the developing brain and/or to effect endocrine function – and to include an updated risk/benefit analysis of water fluoridation specific to pre-natal, newborn, and early childhood fluoride exposures.

Consider the following:

- Since June 2000 the toxicologists, biologists, and other professionals at the US EPA headquarters in Washington, DC, speaking through their union, have urged a *national moratorium* on water fluoridation, citing the need for more epidemiological studies on possible side effects, including emerging science linking fluoride to potential adverse impact on the developing brain. Reference: <http://www.actionpa.org/fluoride/hirzy.html>.
- In 2006 an NAS/NRC panel of experts found the EPA standard for fluoride in drinking water is not protective against adverse health effects, citing dental and skeletal fluorosis. The report also called for more research on fluoride's ability to be an endocrine disruptor and to impact the brain. The panel found artificial water fluoridation to be the most significant source of fluoride exposures in the US – approaching 50% or more. (Today the EPA continues in the lengthy process of revising their fluoridation standards in response to this NAS/NRC report. The recent CDC revision to optimal water fluoridation was triggered specifically by the dental fluorosis concerns in the report.)
- In October 2012 a study (Choi, et. al.) out of the Harvard School of Public Health found potential developmental neurotoxicity of fluoride should be a high research priority. Reference: www.ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1104912.
- In February 2014 a critical review of the physiological effects of ingested fluoride as a public health intervention was published in the *Scientific World Journal*. The authors concluded water fluoridation as a public health policy should be replaced globally by cavity prevention approaches which do not involve systemic ingestion of fluoride. Although published in 2014, this well documented article from the UK makes a strong counterpoint to the 2015 HHS rationale on fluoride. Accessible via PubMed: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3956646/.
- In their study published March 2014 in *The Lancet Neurology* two highly esteemed researchers - Professor Philippe Grandjean, MD (Harvard School of Public Health) and Professor Philip J. Landrigan, MD MPH (Mount Sinai School of Medicine) – determined sufficient data exists, specifically citing Choi 2012, to find fluoride is a developmental neurotoxicant. [www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(13\)70278-3/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(13)70278-3/abstract).
- In January 2015 researchers from the University of Kent in England published a significant study which found a strong association between community water fluoridation and prevalence of underactive thyroid disorders. The Kent study concluded by questioning the safety of community water fluoridation as a public health measure and recommended consideration for reducing all sources of fluoride in the environment. Accessible via PubMed at: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25714098.
- In February 2015 a published study out of York University in Canada, using US data, found a strong ecological association between the prevalence of fluoridated water and the prevalence of ADHD diagnoses among 4-17 year olds. Accessible via PubMed at: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25890329.

The new CDC guidance is specific to addressing the high rate of dental fluorosis. The question is: Will the reduced standard be protective against other potential adverse side effects which may stem from fetal, newborn, and early childhood exposures? Pending a thorough risk/benefit analysis, Connecticut must err on the side of caution and institute a fluoride moratorium.

Strike

Vote: 2-6-0

CR & DR would not support motion + 2 paragraph rec.

Attachment