

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, AUGUST 22nd, 2017
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT. Chairman Nickerson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7 PM.

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Chairman, Steve DiGiovanna, Dave Jacques, Joe Mingo, Dave Murphy, Carol Russell, Dave Zoller

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Brad Kargl, Municipal Utility Engineer
Kevin Seery, Deputy First Selectman
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

ABSENT: Dave Bond, Roger Spencer

FILED

Aug 28 2017 AT 3:55 AM (PM)
Fuller ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

▪ **Regular Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2017**

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2017.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2017 as presented.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Zoller

3. Delegations

Mr. Nickerson called for delegations.

There were no delegations.

4. Billing Adjustments

Mr. Kargl said that there were none.

5. Approval of Bills – from Attachment B

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion on the Well 1A Treatment Project bills.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Well 1A Treatment Project bills:

Tighe & Bond, Inv. #071790061-062 in the amount of \$23,001.35 and Tighe & Bond, Inv.

#081790011 in the amount of \$29,194.00.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

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

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Zoller moved to approve payment of the following Water Main Improvement bill: D & V Morin, Inv. #1067 in the amount of \$16,455.92.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion on the Sewer Lateral bill.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Sewer Lateral bill: Sacco Enterprises Inc., Inv. #5407 in the amount of \$3000.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

6. Finance Director Report

Ms. Johnson reviewed her report noting that the prison usage now reflected a year of the reduced billing due to the reduction in the prison facility so the numbers align more from last year when they first showed the large drop.

7. Draft Sewer Regulations

Mr. Nickerson noted that they had sent this back to the subcommittee at the last meeting.

Mr. Kargl said that with the emergency issues that had come up that he had not had the time to schedule a meeting of the subcommittee however they are scheduling a meeting for this week Thursday afternoon for them to meet. The members agreed upon 2 PM for the meeting time. He said that he would file an agenda to that effect.

8. Water and Sewer Operating Budgets Status Report

Mr. Bragaw said that this is a new year and that he really did not have information for them at this time. In a few months he would have a report for the quarter.

9. Capital Budget Review – Water Project Reprioritization

Mr. Kargl said that he is working on this.

10. Sewer Project Updates

▪ **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Emergency Repairs to the Niantic Pump Station**

Mr. Bragaw explained the emergency situation with the pumps at the Niantic Pump Station where they had gone from one pump carrying the load to no pumps Friday late afternoon. They had full crews out working on it from 3:30 PM to 4 AM to get it working so that they could get a by-pass system in place. The by-pass system is in place now and this cost \$20,000/month. The number 2 pump that was recently rebuilt is now toast. This pump station is part of the Weston & Sampson study however they need to do something now to get this going again.

Mr. Zoller asked if one pump is running it now.

Mr. Bragaw said that they have two pumps but they cannot keep operating this way – they are looking to put new pumps in – not re-builts.

Mr. Mingo asked if we have a trailer mounted by-pass pump.

Mr. Kargl said that we do but it only services the 20 other pump stations – not Niantic. He added that they are looking for this to be a 2-pump system with the new technology dry pit submersibles. While they cost more they are easier to plug in and wire up.

Mr. Nickerson said that had they not had this meeting tonight they would have needed to have one as this is an emergency situation.

Ms. Russell asked if they have enough information with the two new pumps to make sure it will all tie in and work effectively as this is part of the Weston & Sampson study.

Mr. Kargl said that at the moment – no – but the engineer is charged with determining that information so they will not be putting good money after bad.

Mr. Jacques recapped – all four pumps went out during the emergency but they got two running again. Mr. Kargl said yes – they were able to get the two largest 150 hp running however the pump that they had replaced - #2 – seized up and is now totally gone.

Mr. Jacques asked if the manufacturer would cover it.

Mr. Kargl said that they are hoping so. He said that he is looking for \$400,000 here for the new pumps plus there is two months worth of the \$20,000/month cost for the by-pass pump.

Mr. Mingo asked if there are other companies around that use the same pumps and who might have one on hand that they could get faster.

Mr. Kargl said that he did not know of any.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Murphy moved to authorize up to \$400,000 from the Sewer Benefit Assessment Fund for emergency repairs to the Niantic Pump Station to include new pumps, motors, controls, electrical, valves, by-pass pumping, related equipment and services and engineering consulting services.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Murphy moved to authorize the Chair of the Water & Sewer Commission to execute an On-Call Engineering Services Agreement with Weston & Sampson Engineers associated with the Emergency repair of the Niantic Pump Station.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **Niantic and Pattagansett Pump Station Study**

Mr. Kargl recalled that they had authorized up to \$90,000 for the Weston & Sampson study on the two pump stations and had asked them to see if they could get reduced pricing as they were having two stations done instead of one. In asking for a fee for the both of them he said that they are happy to say that Weston & Sampson gave them a price of \$69,500 to do the two pump stations. With the current emergency they will put that off to the side while the emergency is taken care of.

11. Water Project Updates

▪ **Well 1A and 6 Treatment Plant Modifications and Upgrades – Amendment #1 – Utility Locating Survey**

Mr. Kargl said that Amendment #1 – the Utility Locating Survey cost \$4000. They have \$18,000 in contingency for these types of items and as the work has already been done – he would like it to be paid for from there.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked how big the survey crew was as they were charging \$200 per hour and that fee seems high.

Mr. Kargl said that there were two guys doing the work.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Zoller moved to authorize the Chair of the Water & Sewer Commission to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Engineering Services Relative to Well 1A Final Design, Permitting, Bidding and Construction in the amount of \$4,000 to complete a utility locating survey.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **Water Meter Replacement / High School Master Meters**

Mr. Bragaw said that each meter will cost upwards of \$35,000 - \$40,000. The problem with the meters not working is that they have to estimate the readings for three areas.

Ms. Russell asked if they could have a discussion that once they do have the new master meters and they have real data that they could compare it so that they are able to back charge if they were billed too low; or refund if they were billed too high.

Mr. Mingo said that the Water & Sewer is not a charity operation – it is a business and they represent the ratepayers and he feels that they are being 'boned' here. It is not their problem to worry about where the Board of Ed gets the money to pay for it – it is their problem and they have been getting away with free water for some time. He asked if they need two meter pits.

Mr. Kargl said yes.

Mr. Bragaw added that he does not think that the ratepayers are getting 'boned' (in Mr. Mingo's words) as they have not been generous in their estimated reads. They have been trying to be fair and the Board of Ed has been very cooperative.

Mr. Nickerson noted some of the work that needs to be done will be done during the school refurbishments projects. They are working towards a solution on this.

12. Correspondence Log

The correspondence log was made available.

Mr. Kargl noted that he had given them additional information regarding the Department of Public Health (DPH) seeking to regulate public water under the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act and to charge our customers to fund the \$2.5M that the DPH needs for this. They would bill \$3 per customer per service connection which would come to approximately \$18,000 from us and we would have to put a notice on the bill that it is a pass-through and that we are collecting it for the DPH. There is also a 2% handling fee and 10% for delinquents.

Mr. Mingo asked what the purpose of this was.

Mr. Kargl said it was to maintain the DPH staffing levels under the drinking water section so that they can continue to operate as they are because they do not have the dollars to do so. This would have to be collected every year.

Mr. Mingo said that he would be willing to put a motion on the floor that we are against this.

Mr. Kargl said that if they say no to this then they could get a license fee of say \$18,000 that they would have to pay.

Ms. Russell asked when they are looking to put this into motion.

Mr. Kargl said that it is part of the current budget process, so it is 'right away'.

13. Chairman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported on the following:

- The budget issues continue – as they have mentioned and with Malloy's proposals to get the legislature back to work on getting a budget in place.
- He noted that they have enjoyed a great summer and that the Town has been busy.
- Our new independent police force is one of the best things in our Town and this has been working out very well.
- The old Mobil station area has some two to three small areas that have to be remediated. They already have approval from the State to get that done and will be working on it. The areas date back to the time of the old train station.
- One of the Chamber of Commerce representatives said that there were more ribbon cuttings in our Town for new businesses than in the Towns surrounding us.
- The Costco developers are waiting on the State DOT for the temporary roads and they are hoping to hear on this by the end of the year.
- There are some major investors who are looking into our Town and may be interested in doing something here. More to come should this unfold.

Ms. Russell asked about the Old Lyme sewers and any progress.

Mr. Nickerson said that there are three beach communities that have formed their own WPCA and they have been in discussion with them for now but they also know that there will be more looking to come on board and they will work with them also.

Mr. Bragaw & Mr. Kargl noted that this hooks up to the Bridebrook Pump Station and that Attorney O'Connell is working on this with them and Old Lyme is paying for the work that he is doing.

Mr. Jacques asked if the pump sizing is an issue.

Mr. Kargl said that pumps are of adequate size now.

14. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

Mr. Bragaw noted that efforts have been made to paint the fire hydrants down Route 161 and that the difference is readily noticeable. He said that they would try to continue the effort as it does make a big difference.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

Mr. Kargl noted that he had put the rain amounts on the sewer history as was requested by Mr. Murphy.

15. Future Agenda Items

There was no discussion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to adjourn the August 22, 2017 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:05 PM.

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary