

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, NOVEMBER 14, 2017  
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 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, Dave Bond, Steve DiGiovanna, Joe Mingo, Dave Murphy, Carol Russell, Roger Spencer, 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 Jacques

**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**

- **Public Hearing Minutes on Water Rates - October 24, 2017 and**
- **Public Hearing Minutes on Sewer Rates - October 24, 2017**

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Public Hearing Minutes on the water Rates and the Sewer Rates of October 24, 2017.

**\*\*MOTION (1)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the **Public Hearing Minutes on the Water Rates and the Public Hearing Minutes on the Sewer Rates of October 24, 2017 as presented.**

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 2. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Bond

- **Regular Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2017**

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2017.

**\*\*MOTION (2)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2017 as presented.**

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 – 0 – 2. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Bond

**3. Delegations**

Mr. Nickerson called for delegations.

FILED

Nov 20 2017 AT 10:45 AM/PM  
*Wendy [Signature]*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

John Johnson, 15 Clark Street, Niantic, said that he was surprised over the increase on the rates and wonders why they do not offer a discounted rate for seniors. He said that they had asked for conservation and that he has conserved so now the water usage is down and they go and increase the rates to make up for it. That is not good business practice. He said that he took a brief look over their budget and saw \$67,000 spent on overtime. He said that he thinks that they are over-staffed as when you go to pay your water bill you have to go to another person. Also, regarding the vehicle acquisitions – they all have shiny new vehicles – rather than purchasing more he suggested that they use them a bit longer and save us some money.

Ted Sudal, 57 Prospect Ave., Niantic said that he had received a sewer assessment bill nine (9) days after it was due as it was sent to the wrong address. He said that he prepared a package of information that he has given to Mr. Nickerson and submitted it for the record. (Submitted as correspondence)

#### **4. Billing Adjustments**

Mr. Kargl explained that he had provided them with paperwork on the 15 Clark Street billing adjustment request. He said that based on the evaluation that they were not able to identify a leak that could have contributed to the higher than normal bill and therefore could not make the adjustment in accord with the 1 in 10 policy. They also put a new meter in and could not find any evidence of a leak – they watched the meter and there was no movement signifying no leak. Mr. Johnson is here this evening for consideration.

John Johnson, 15 Clark Street said that he lives alone and travels so he could not see where anything would be different from previous billings. He said that he thinks that the person reading the meter may have read it incorrectly as it is behind bushes in a corner.

Mr. Zoller said that if that was so, then other readings would also be inconsistent. It seems that he just used more water and that was it.

Ms. Russell asked Mr. Kargl if this is the kind of issue that old meters have.

Mr. Kargl said that the outside meter would slow down and fail – but as soon as the meter was changed it was the same so the old meter was working fine and communicating properly with the outside box.

Mr. Mingo agreed that when a meter fails that it typically slows down so it is the Town that takes the hit on the water usage reading.

Mr. Kargl said that was correct.

Mr. Bond asked if there is any situation where a meter would behave this way.

Mr. Kargl said no and that was why they waited and tested it so much here. He added that the 1 in 10 adjustment is not that forgiving with a leaking toilet as they do not do an adjustment on the sewer side so the water difference would be rather disappointing.

Mr. Bond asked what the 14,000 gallons would amount to.

Ms. Johnson said that it was actually 12,000 gallons.

#### **\*\*MOTION (3)**

**Mr. Bond moved to credit 12,000 gallons of water on the next bill.**

**Mr. Nickerson seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 2 – 6 – 0. Motion failed.**

**For: Mr. Bond, Mr. Nickerson**

**Against: Mr. DiGiovanna, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mingo, Ms. Russell, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Zoller**

Ms. Russell asked what the credit would be by the 1 in 10 policy.

Mr. Bragaw said that is would be around \$26 – but it would also be something that would mean that if this same property has a major leak in the next 10 years that they would not be eligible for the 1 in 10 policy again. Further, what they would be doing would not apply under the policy anyways.

John Johnson, 15 Clark Street said that the 1 in 10 does not apply here and if his request is not approved he will go home and hook up his well and make a major issue of this.

#### **5. Approval of Bills – from Attachment B**

There were no bills for approval at this time.

#### **6. Finance Director Report**

Ms. Johnson reviewed her report noting that the larger expense on the water side relates to chemicals and electricity. She recalled that at this time last year they did a loan to sewer to pay the New London bill so things have improved now.

#### **7. Draft Sewer Regulations**

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

Mr. Kargl said that they are still working on it at this time and do not have anything to report.

#### **8. Sewer Project Updates**

##### **▪ Niantic Pump Station Emergency Upgrades**

Mr. Kargl went over the expenditures to date of \$52,706.25 and the additional project expenses as provided by Weston & Sampson.

Mr. Spencer said that he did not see any incentive payment from Eversource for going to a cost effective pump and would like to see it listed there by Weston & Sampson.

Mr. Kargl and Mr. Bragaw said that they have requested that of Weston & Sampson and that they will request it again.

Ms. Russell asked how the Eversource Incentive Program works.

Mr. Bragaw explained that they figure out how much they will save based upon what was previously being used. He said that they would lump it in with the other projects that we have in Town and they will send a check for that amount. It is straight dollars. Weston & Sampson has to give Eversource the data. They will ask them again to do that.

##### **▪ Cini Park Water and Sewer Connections**

Mr. Kargl said that they are looking at this like running a 'service' (both water and sewer) for the bathrooms and having them operate on a seasonal basis.

Mr. Bragaw further explained that the State also wants to re-pave Route 156 which adds another dimension to this. The plan would be for a portable trailer system so that they could be hauled out in the event of a major storm. This would help with the FEMA related issues that they are facing.

Mr. Bond asked who is paying for this.

Mr. Bragaw said that they are doing it with a STEAP Grant.

#### **9. Water Project Updates**

##### **▪ Well 1A and 6 Treatment Plant Modifications and Upgrades**

Mr. Kargl reported that they are approaching 75% completion on the design plans.

##### **▪ Orchards Booster Station**

Mr. Kargl noted that he had provided them with a listing of the Water department capital budget Status and said that he would like to re-prioritize the projects and present a new plan. The Orchards Pump Station would come into play here with the reorganization.

Mr. Murphy asked that Mr. Kargl add a column on the sheet and put in a 'percentage of completion' for each of the projects as some are on-going. He said that he does not want them spending money that they do not have.

#### **10. Micro-grid Authorization for Well 1A, Well 6 and Society Road PS**

Mr. Bragaw noted that they are already aware of this project. They did a letter of engagement on it and it is moving forward. The application process has to be in by December 31, 2017 so they are looking for an agreement for the application to be worked on and need a motion.

#### **\*\*MOTION (4)**

**Mr. DiGiovanna moved to authorize the Chair of the Water & Sewer Commission to sign any necessary documents pertaining to entering into agreement with the selected firm to develop a Micro-grid in the Middle School area which is in the best interests of the Water and Sewer Commission. The proposed micro-grid could possibly include Wells 1A and 6 and the Society Road Sewer Pump Station.**

**Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.**

Mr. Spencer asked that they make sure that there is no additional power surcharge.

Mr. Bragaw said that they would be required to provide what is necessary.

**Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.**

#### **11. Safe Drinking Water Assessment Fee**

Mr. Kargl said that the most recent State budget included \$2.5M to be paid by water companies to secure EPA designated primacy. This comes to \$3 to \$4 per customer and will be charged to the customer – they can put it in with the bill. He suggested that they would want to look at this also with regard to the rates as it will affect the customers. It is some \$25,000 and we have 6500 customers.

#### **12. Correspondence Log**

There were no comments.

#### **13. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Nickerson said that he would entertain any questions that they might have.

Mr. Mingo asked if there was any potential with the prison closing in Enfield to get more prisoners here.

Mr. Nickerson said no, they have shuttered Gates.

Mr. Murphy asked about the 120 additional apartments at Gateway and if he had any information.

Mr. Nickerson said that it would be on the Thursday Agenda for the Zoning Commission and it would be discussed there.

Mr. Zoller asked about the Costco no longer coming to East Lyme.

Mr. Nickerson said that they received indication that they have pulled back from Rhode Island and Connecticut expansion at this time. More information is to come.

Mr. Mingo asked about the Facilities Plan.

Mr. Kargl said that it was done in 2007 by Fuss & O'Neill and that they have enough information to work with from it.

#### **14. Staff Updates**

##### **a. Water Department Monthly Report**

Mr. Kargl noted that they have reached 96% of their goal for water going to New London per agreement. They are taking a little back just to keep the water moving.

##### **b. Sewer Department Monthly Report**

Mr. Murphy asked about the Old Lyme project.

Mr. Nickerson said that the Attorneys are meeting and working out the details and that Old Lyme is paying the Attorney fees.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

There was no discussion.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion to adjourn.

**\*\*MOTION (5)**

**Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn the November 14, 2017 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:25 PM.**

**Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary