

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, JANUARY 23, 2018
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT. Acting Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting to order at 7 PM.

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Acting Chairman, Dave Bond, Steve DiGiovanna, Dave Jacques, Joe Mingo, Dave Murphy, Carol Russell, Roger Spencer

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Edward O'Connell, Town Counsel
Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Brad Kargl, Municipal Utility Engineer
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jan 29 2018 AT 10:03 AM PM
Brenda D. Spencer ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

ABSENT: Mark Nickerson, Chairman, Dave Zoller

1. Call to Order / Pledge

Acting Chairman Seery 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 – December 12, 2017**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2017.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2017 as presented.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

3. Delegations

Mr. Seery called for delegations.

There were no delegations.

4. Executive Session

▪ **Status of Negotiations – Old Lyme Beach Association Sewer Connection**

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Murphy moved to enter Executive Session at 7:02 PM for the purpose of discussion on the Status of Negotiations – Old Lyme Beach Association Sewer Connection inviting Attorney O'Connell, Joe Bragaw & Brad Kargl to join them.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Mingo

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Mingo moved to return to Regular Session at 7:45 PM with no action taken in Executive Session.
Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.
Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

5. Billing Adjustments

Mr. Kargl said that he would have some for them in February.
Mr. Bragaw noted that he had responded to Mr. Sudal's correspondence from a previous meeting.

6. Approval of Bills – from Attachment B

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Well 1A Treatment Project bill.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Well 1A Treatment Project bill:
Tighe & Bond, Inv. #121790032-033 in the amount of \$39,598.41.
Mr. Jacques seconded the motion.
Vote: 8 - 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Niantic Pump Station Upgrade bill.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Niantic Pump Station Upgrade bill:
Xylem, Inv. #400770490 in the amount of \$9,121.68.
Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.
Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Niantic & Pattagansett Pump Station PER bill.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following Niantic & Pattagansett Pump Station PER bill: Weston & Sampson, Inv. #477206 in the amount of \$34,750.00.
Mr. Jacques Seconded the motion.
Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

7. Finance Director Report

Ms. Johnson said that she had provided them with her report. The balances for both water and sewer were healthier at this time of the year due to the recent billing.

8. Water & Sewer Operating Budget Status Report

Mr. Bragaw reported that the sewer side was doing pretty well and that they had also put in the insurance claim as previously discussed.

9. Cini Park Water & Sewer Connections Update

Mr. Seery noted that the Board of Selectmen had approved the STEAP Grant dollars for the Cini Park project.

Mr. Kargl said that they were looking to award the contract in early March and are hoping to have everything in so that it would be ready for this upcoming summer season.

Mr. Bragaw added that they are working in conjunction with the State regarding the re-paving of that State road area.

10. Gateway Phase 2 Development Update

Mr. Kargl said that there is nothing to report at this time as there is no application that has been filed.

11. Sewer Project Updates

▪ Niantic Pump Station Emergency Upgrades

Mr. Kargl noted that he had provided them with the Niantic Pump Station Emergency Repairs Project update report and that he thinks that they should start seeing some action in February. Also, Weston & Sampson notified them that they had made a mistake in the CT labor rates calculation and that they know that this is 'on them' for the mistake.

Mr. Jacques asked if they are waiting for the valve.

Mr. Kargl said yes, it has been 16 weeks now and it may go into the beginning of March.

12. Water Project Updates

▪ Well 1A and 6 Treatment Plant Modifications and Upgrades

Mr. Kargl said that he had provided them with the Tighe & Bond Engineering Services Agreement and that he was looking for funding for Amendment 2 with the Fire Sprinkler system item for Well 6 being of particular importance. The amount of this Amendment would be not to exceed \$57,000.

Mr. Jacques asked if he had a break-out on the \$57,000.

Mr. Kargl said that he had attached it to the back of the Amendment.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Murphy moved to authorize the Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Engineering Services relative to Well 1A Final Design, Permitting, bidding and Construction in an amount not to exceed \$57,000, thereby increasing the authorized fee from \$278,400 to \$335,400 subject to the approval of the State of Connecticut, under the Drinking Water State Revolving fund (DWSRF) program.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Ms. Russell asked if there is a portion of the loan that they could get from the Town to cover the Parks & Recreation Irrigation item.

Mr. Kargl said that the well was already there.

Mr. Seery said that they could not do it that way.

Mr. Mingo said that he does not feel that it is our responsibility and that Parks & Rec has an in-flow of dollars and it should be their responsibility.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ Orchards Booster Station

Mr. Kargl recalled that they had authorized the study to be done on this and that it is moving forward. He said that pressure recorders would have to be put on pump stations to measure instantaneous flows and that they would need some money for this.

▪ Capital Budget Status

Mr. Bragaw said that he would have this for them in February.

13. Correspondence Log

There were no comments.

14. Chairman's Report

Mr. Seery reported that at the recent town Meeting that the Dinghy and canoe launch area for Cini Park had been approved as well as the portable toilet facilities. The park on Main Street was also approved and they are hoping to be able to open it for Memorial Day.

15. Discussion/Possible Action on Utility Project Coordinator

Mr. Bragaw said that they really need someone downstairs to help Brad with the water meter replacement project and well work as they need to keep these projects moving. He said that they would like someone who would spend the great part of their time on the water meter replacement project and that it should help them reduce their consultant fees. The position would be split 50/50 between water and sewer and the range would be \$70,000-\$80,000. The thought is to bring someone in to work with Brad so that there would be someone potentially able to move into his position when he retires. He outlined the dollars that had been saved by not replacing Mr. Holyfield's position when he retired and combining the water and sewer supervisor positions when Mr. Poola retired some years ago. He anticipates advertising in the trades in order to find someone who would be able to do this work and work further into the position.

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to authorize staff to take the necessary steps required to advertise for the position of Utility Project Coordinator.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Mr. Mingo said that he has wanted this for some time now and is in favor of it.

Ms. Russell said that she supports this and that she would like to see the Commission be involved in it.

Mr. DiGiovanna said that he would volunteer to be on the review panel to make sure that they find the best possible fit for the position and the Town.

Mr. Bragaw said that would be fine.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

16. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

Mr. Kargl noted that he had provided them with a sheet outlining the water that they have been sending to New London.

Mr. Bragaw reported that as they had asked last month - they had billed \$1.59M for water and that \$190,000 is delinquent. He said that they would go after this diligently to get the amount owed down.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

There were no comments.

17. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Russell asked that they hear a fluoride update from the person who was an intern at LLHD and who worked on this for their master's thesis.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Seery called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (9)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to adjourn the January 23 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:33 PM.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary

January 23, 2018

To: East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission

Fr: Carol Russell

Re: Master's Thesis on Community Water Fluoridation by Former Ledge Light Intern, Jessica Seyfried

As some of you may recall, back in October 2013 the Water & Sewer Commission asked me to approach Ledge Light regarding our on-going dialogue with CT DPH following the publication in October 2012 of a study on fluoride by researchers (Choi, et al.) with the Harvard School of Public Health. The Harvard team analyzed 27 studies, mostly conducted in China, regarding fluoride exposure and reduction in IQ. The Choi study acknowledged insufficiencies within the 27 studies but found *"the consistency of their findings adds support to existing evidence of fluoride-associated cognitive deficits, and suggests the potential developmental neurotoxicity of fluoride should be a high research priority."* A follow-up statement issued by Anna Choi, the lead author of the HSPH study, and Philippe Grandjean, the senior author, includes the following caution: *"These results do not allow us to make any judgment regarding possible levels of risk at levels of exposure typical for water fluoridation in the U. S. On the other hand, neither can it be concluded that no risk is present. We therefore recommend further research to clarify what role fluoride exposure levels may play in possible adverse effects on brain development, so that future risk assessments can properly take into regard this possible hazard."*

When Ledge Light was made aware of our concerns, they advised one of their interns would be conducting a thorough search of the available literature regarding water fluoridation. Subsequently, Jessica Seyfried, a graduate student with the UConn Health Center, contacted me about her project and later met personally with both me and Brad. Throughout 2014 and into 2015 she conducted her research – which became her thesis towards completion of a Master's Degree in Public Health.

Ms. Seyfried's Master's Thesis is titled, **Revisiting Community Water Fluoridation**. The paper explores the science and the social factors that have influenced (and continue to influence) the formulation of US policy on the use of CWF to promote dental health. Ms. Seyfried's analysis identifies weaknesses, based on today's standards, within this body of work. Her conclusion cites an urgent need for follow-up research: *"There is a solid argument against the method of CWF delivery now that scientists seem to agree that the benefit of fluoride is purely topical.....Our nation's recommendation to expose the majority of its public to community water fluoridation needs to be based on more sound, replicated evidence. Until that evidence is produced, the safest way to proceed is to pause community water fluoridation. During this hiatus, data should continue to be collected on the rates of dental caries, as well as the occurrence of syndromes or diseases that are hypothesized to potentially be a result of exposure to systemic fluoride via drinking water. Once this data is analyzed, then a more informed decision can be made on the best way to prevent our communities from developing dental caries."*

Ms. Seyfried's thesis devotes an appendix to the question: *Is it plausible fluoride is a developmental neurotoxin?* She explains the complexity of this issue and its public health implications. She concludes, *"It is not clear whether or not fluoride exposure through CWF is a developmental neurotoxin, but what is clear is that more research on the topic must be done."*

You can access the full thesis document at http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/gs_theses/861.

Cc: Brad Kargl
Joe Bragaw

Submitted by C. Russell

1/23/18