

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, MAY 22nd, 2018
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 22, 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, Dave Zoller

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Edward O'Connell, Town Counsel
Christopher Wester, PE, VP Regional Manager Weston & Sampson
Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Brad Kargl, Municipal Utility Engineer

ABSENT: Mark Nickerson, Chairman

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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 – April 24, 2018**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2018.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Zoller moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2018 as presented.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

3. Delegations

Mr. Seery called for delegations.

Tim Londregan, Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm, New London, CT said that he had come regarding the water project that is going into Cini Park for the portable restrooms. He said that he would like to see water being available to the commercial docks there. It would be a huge asset to have public water there and would provide for a great vision for the future there. He said that he hopes that the opportunity to have water there is not missed. He said that he would stay throughout the meeting and be available after the meeting for them to ask him any questions that they might have or for general discussion.

4. Executive Session – Old Lyme Beaches Sewer Contract Negotiations and Engineering Estimates

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Jacques moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on the Old Lyme Beaches Sewer Contract Negotiations & Engineering Estimates inviting Attorney O'Connell, Mr. Bragaw and Mr. Kargl to join them.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

FILED

MAY 29 2018 AT 10:00 AM

Carroll

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

****MOTION (3)**

Mr. Mingo moved to return to Regular Session at 7:55 PM with no action taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

5. Billing Adjustments – 239 Old Black Point Road

Mr. Bragaw noted that Mr. Adams of 239 Old Black Point Road is present this evening regarding his bill. He synopsised that a letter was sent to Mr. Adams in October of 2017 regarding his outstanding bills from past billing cycles in the amount of \$3,441.57. He said that the property has an irrigation system and that the billing review from November of 2015 reflects the cycle of larger billing for the summer period and smaller during the winter. The one larger reading during one summer was due to an unusually hot and dry extended summer where they also took water from New London for a longer period due to the extended dry spell. As they did not hear from Mr. Adams in October, another letter was sent and he requested to come before the Commission this evening regarding this dispute. They have been out to check the meter and have not found any issues with it.

Mr. Seery asked that the Commissioners ask any questions that they might have.

Mr. Zoller asked if the irrigation system is turned off for the winter and then back on for the summer as the billing does show a consistent pattern. He suggested that the irrigation system might have a leak.

Mr. Adams said that he had the system turned off for the winter and has had the system checked by the people who installed it and they said that there is no leak; the billing does not make sense to him. Neither he nor his family spend a lot of time there and as such do not feel that they use a lot of water. He passed out a timeline to the Commissioners of his calls to the office and results from those calls. (Copy not submitted for attachment)

Mr. Mingo asked if there is a rain sensor to turn off the irrigation system if it rains.

Mr. Adams said yes.

Mr. Mingo said that there is a problem there somewhere as 50,000 gallons is a lot of water and he would bet that the golf course does not use that amount to irrigate the course grounds.

Mr. Bragaw said that in the letter that Mr. Adams said that he did not get but was sent, that they did turn the water off however they turned it back on the next morning. He noted that the high reading was the year when the irrigation systems were running well through September as it was exceptionally dry and the regional interconnection was in full play. He said that the information that Mr. Adams presented to them really does not address the water usage or what he was doing with regard to checking it out and/or fixing the problem – only his calls to the office.

Mr. Spencer asked about the adjustments.

Mr. Bragaw said that they found that there was an extra zero in the water reading and it was corrected. They also found that a new meter was not necessary.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked if it was possible to have a second meter just for the irrigation.

Mr. Bragaw said no, that is only done for commercial properties; not residential.

Mr. Mingo said that he thinks that there is a problem or leak within the irrigation system and that there should be a separate meter.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked about the 1 in 10 application.

Mr. Bragaw said that this is not a 1 in 10 issue.

Mr. Jacques said that he would also have to demonstrate that the issue is fixed; further it is a 1 in 10 years. If he had something that actually fell under the 1 in 10 (within the 10 year period) and had been allowed to utilize it when it was not an actual 1 in 10, then he would not be able to use it then.

Mr. Bond said that when there is a pattern of up in the summer and down in the winter – it does not explain how he fixed any conceived issue with this. He suggested that if they read Mr. Adams meter

every month during the summer that they should find out what is going on. He said that he does not see how he could agree to an adjustment without something certifying what the issue is and that it has been fixed. Further, as a plumber himself, he said that something is leaking, be it the irrigation system or toilets, something is leaking. Mr. Adams needs to find it and have it fixed.

Mr. Spencer said that he thinks that it is up to Mr. Adams to get specialists in there – be it two different – a plumber and an irrigation specialist (not the person who installed the system) to check it all out and then to certify that it is working properly or has been fixed.

Mr. Seery asked the pleasure of the Commission.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked about the 1 in 10.

Mr. Kargl said that if that was a method to use then they would have told Mr. Adams that was the route to follow; however it is not.

Mr. Jacques asked Mr. Adams if he has taken other tests to see what could be happening.

Mr. Adams said no, not yet, he came this evening to learn more about this and if need be, he can come back once he has things checked out. He came so that he could better understand what the billing is about and what could be done.

Mr. Bragaw said that if he had other questions that he should feel free to contact him so that they could discuss them.

Mr. Spencer asked if they could read the meter frequently over a period of time.

Mr. Kargl suggested that they read it weekly over a month to try to get more information/data on it. Mr. Adams would also pursue having everything checked out for leaks, etc.

6. Approval of Bills – from Attachment B

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Bride Lake Treatment Plant Control Upgrades bill.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve payment of the following **Bride Lake Treatment Plant control Upgrades bill: Integrated Control Systems, LLC Inv. No. 3118 in the amount of \$58,900.**

Mr. Zoller seconded the motion.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked if this is complete.

Mr. Kargl said yes, adding that it is broken out on the report.

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0. Motion passed.

7. Finance Director Report

Mr. Seery said that they have the report for their review.

8. Water & Sewer Operating Budget Status Report

Mr. Bragaw said that one Water employee is retiring this Friday and that is the position that they are not filling. There is also a Sewer position open that they will be filling.

9. Sewer Project Updates

▪ Niantic Pump Station Emergency Upgrades

Mr. Kargl reported that the bypass pumps are still out there.

Mr. Jacques asked if the control valves are here yet.

Christopher Wester, PE, VP Regional Manager with Weston & Sampson said that he knows that they are concerned with the delay. FW Webb Co. said that the pipe company had a manufacturing delay and while they were supposed to be here in 14 – 16 weeks, it was 22 weeks. They scheduled construction to coordinate with the 14-16 weeks and when they did not arrive they had to go on shutdown – it is unexpected that there was almost an 8 week delay. Currently the week of June 3, 2018 is the

anticipated completion date. Pump 2 was installed, then the Pump 3 old pump demolished and a new one to go in with the test for the end of next week. He said that things should proceed okay as the only delay was the late delivery of the hard equipment. He realizes that this has been an issue.

Mr. Spencer asked if there was an expedited delivery charge on the valves.

Mr. Wester said no – FW Webb missed the delivery by 8 weeks. He said that he has not asked for anything as of yet with respect to this.

Mr. Jacques asked where the valves were done and by whom.

Mr. Wester said that they were cast by Golden Anderson and there was a special piece that caused the delay – a piston.

Mr. Seery suggested that they ask for some type of compensation due to the delay and the extra expense that we have incurred due to them missing the delivery date.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked if the valves were unique to our installation and if there were delays to other customers.

Mr. Wester said that they are standard valves but not commonly used. He said that he has not checked on any other delays.

Mr. Bond asked in dollars what the extra expense to us is.

Mr. Kargl said that it is \$18,000.

Mr. Bond asked what the valves are worth.

Mr. Wester said that they are \$8000 each.

Mr. Spencer asked about the VFD's and any incentives with Eversource.

Mr. Wester said that the VFD's were put in but in this application they do not qualify for any incentives.

The Commission thanked Mr. Wester for coming to the meeting.

10. Water Project Updates

▪ Well 1A and 6 Treatment Plant Modifications and Upgrades

Mr. Kargl reported that they are looking into natural gas service for potential generators for both sites. Eversource has indicated that our contribution for this would be in the \$26,000 arena. There is also the micro-grid and they need to obtain information from Tighe & Bond on what would be necessary.

Mr. Spencer asked: wouldn't the micro-grid also be dependent on natural gas.

Mr. Bragaw said yes, adding that he was waiting for the next round of micro-grid to come out as it should be cheaper for the natural gas connection than what they have heard now.

Mr. Spencer noted that they would need a generator to start the micro-grid should there be a power failure as the micro-grid cannot sustain itself if there is a power failure.

Mr. Bond said that they are trying to save some dollars.

It was suggested that Mr. Spencer be involved in any micro-grid meetings that take place so that he could ask appropriate questions based upon his working knowledge of such products.

11. Correspondence Log

There were no comments.

12. Chairman's Report

Mr. Seery noted that as they had heard from Attorney O'Connell – they will need to hold a special meeting to review the Old Lyme Beaches Sewer Contract language. Also, Mr. Londregan who is here this evening came to the Board of Selectmen meeting requesting that water be made available to the commercial docks in Cini Park. They are interested in looking into it and any conceptual plans would of course, come before this Commission.

Mr. Spencer asked if he was correct in saying that water to that area would be seasonal.

Mr. Seery said yes.

He continued that the referendum on the budget would be held this Thursday from 8 AM to 8 PM at the Community Center and lastly noted that the Smith Harris House is seeking to change its name to the Brookfield Farm Museum with a notation underneath regarding the Smith, Harris and Avery families as the Avery name has a following.

13. Assistant Utility Engineer Update

Mr. Bragaw updated that they do have a few candidates and that he would be working on this in the near future. He said that he would update them next month and reminded them that they cannot hire someone until at least August if not later.

14. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

Mr. Murphy asked about water to New London and if they are still pumping.

Mr. Kargl said that they have met their quota and are just pushing a little through to keep things moving.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

Ms. Russell asked about the 'No Reading' item.

Mr. Kargl said that the reading did not make any sense so he did not put a bad one there.

15. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Seery called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn the May 22, 2018 Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 9:02 PM.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary