

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, 2020
Via Zoom Meetings**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 by Zoom Meetings. Chairman Nickerson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director
Brad Kargl, Municipal Utility Engineer
Ben North, Municipal Utility Engineer
Anna Johnson, Finance Director

ABSENT: No One

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Nickerson called the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission to order at 7:01 PM via Zoom meetings. He noted those in attendance. The Pledge was observed.

2. Approval of Minutes

- **Regular Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2020**

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion or any discussion to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020.

****MOTION (1)**

Mr. Zoller moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020 as presented.

Mr. Bond seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Mingo

FILED

3. Delegations

There were no delegations.

4. Billing Adjustments

There were none.

June 29 20 20 AT 10:02 AM/PM
Ann Hulm
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

5. Approval of Bills

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion on the Well 1A/6 Treatment bills.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Zoller moved to approve the following Well 1A/6 Treatment Project bill: Tighe & Bond Inv. #062090018 in the amount of \$29,956.83; RH White, Appl. No. 02 in the amount of \$147,872.34 and Robinson & Cole, Inv. #50311117 in the amount of \$20,208.94.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 7 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Bond

(Note: 7:06 PM - Mr. DiGiovanna joined the meeting)

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion on the Meter Replacement Project bills.

****MOTION (3)**

**Mr. Zoller moved to approve the following Meter Replacement Project Bills:
EJ Prescott, Inv. No. 5696660 in the amount of \$7,938.00 and EJ Prescott, Inv. #5676929 in the amount of \$1,014.30.**

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

6. Application for Municipal Tax Relief Deferral Program

Mr. Kargl explained that the application for 54 Oakwood Road was submitted late – it was supposed to be submitted by May 31, 2020 but was received in early June. He noted that the application for tax deferrals had to be received by June 30, 2020 and that may be where some of the confusion was.

Ms. Russell asked if they are also asking for other tax relief and if it has been accepted so that they would be consistent with the other relief.

Mr. Bragaw and Mr. Kargl said that they did not know what the tax department did or how many they received.

Ms. Russell said that she thinks that they should be consistent with what they do and not out of sync with them.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to accept the 54 Oakwood Road, Niantic, CT deferral application for consideration.

Mr. Bond seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

7. Finance Director Report

Ms. Johnson noted that they had her report. She reported that there had not been many expenditures on the water side and that the Sewer assessment side is at \$2.3M. She said that it would be updated at the next meeting after the expenses are paid.

8. Spinnaker Sewer Pump Station Maintenance Agreement for FY 2021

Mr. Kargl said that he has a draft agreement however the labor rates are not finalized yet. He said that they are roughly at 2.5% and Ms. Johnson is working on them. He said that they have been accustomed to approving this in the past and asked that they approve it and allow the Chair to sign off on it once completed.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Murphy moved to authorize the Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission to execute the Maintenance of the Sewer Pump Station Agreement with Spinnaker Association, Inc. for fiscal Year 2021.

Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Zoller

9. Water & Sewer Operating Budget Status Reports and Requested Action

▪ **Water Operating Budget Carry-over of funds in the Amount of \$30,000 from FY20 to FY21 for Water Storage Tank Maintenance**

Mr. Bragaw said that they had set aside some money to work on the Boston Post Road water tank.

Mr. Mingo said that the Town employees can put some Wet & Forget on the tank.

Mr. Kargl said that they typically robotically clean the inside and power wash the outside and then do touch-up painting.

Mr. Mingo said that he wants the outside of the tank cleaned.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Murphy moved to carry over funds in the amount of \$30,000 in the FY2020 Water Operating budget to the FY2021 Water Operating Budget, Account #07-01-300-930-325, Capital Projects. Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.

Mr. Mingo said that they are an enterprise budget and that they do not have to carry over items like the Town does.

Ms. Johnson said that they are just allocating it for this purpose.

Vote: 9 -0 -0. Motion passed.

▪ **Water Operating Budget Carry-over of funds in the Amount of \$400,000 from FY20 to FY21 for Debt Reserve Account**

Mr. Bragaw explained that they had set aside \$400,000 for the Debt Reserve Account for Well 1A/6 work as it came in higher and this allows for the use for the debt service payments.

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to carry over funds in the amount of \$400,000 in the FY2020 Water Operating Budget to the FY2021 Water Operating budget for a Debt Reserve Account to be established.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

10. Water Project Updates

▪ **Meter Replacement Project**

Mr. Kargl updated them on the legislative front noting that Mr. Formica had informed them that it would take awhile. They are also looking into PMI pulling in licensed plumbers and the potential of having the Town employees working together with the crews from PMI.

Mr. Bond said that no matter what happens that they will have to have a licensed plumber on site. He also said again that he does not think that PMI should be cut any slack or paid anymore money for this contract as they KNOW that CT is a license state. Still further it was two residents who started this. He added that other water companies in the State have received different information.

Ms. Russell suggested that they have an Executive Session with legal representation to see what can be done.

Mr. Nickerson said that they would deal with it at the time that is appropriate.

Mr. Bond said that this is a Replacement Project – NOT a new installation so there are a lot of technicalities and one plumber overseeing the project should be okay as this is only a replacement project. He then asked if the bid was under subject of prevailing wage or a consulting contract.

Mr. Mingo said that this is totally ridiculous as it is a replacement project.

Mr. Murphy asked when they thing the project will start up again.

Mr. Nickerson noted that the Covid issue started about a week after this all happened so it would probably be late in the year before it starts up.

Mr. Jacques said that he had a couple of questions – first – why did they stop in the first place –

Mr. Kargl said that it was the licensing first and then the Covid outbreak.

Mr. Jacques said that if it was boilerplate language that the consultant obtains all necessary information then why would it be our problem.

Mr. Bond reiterated that PMI should not receive any more money as their contracts are designed for these types of things so the only difference would be less of a profit for them.

▪ **Well 1A and 6 Treatment Plan Modifications and Upgrades**

Mr. Kargl reported that this is going really well and that they are also working on the piping so that the

Little League will be able to start practicing. There will be some challenge with the wells off-line to make the connections but so far, so good.

Mr. Jacques asked when they expect completion of the project.

Mr. Kargl said that it is due for March/April of 2021 but they could finish by the end of this year.

11. Correspondence Log

There were no comments.

12. Boston Post Road Sewers

Mr. Mingo said that this is probably the only place in East Lyme that is on gravity feed, it is an area with intense development by a lake that will most likely be turned into condos. He said that he thinks that this main should be put in now.

Mr. North said that he looked at the cost of the gravity back down to the pump station – there is 1,270' of gravity feed with a 25' elevation change – a random number is \$325,000. The next step would be getting a consultant like Weston & Sampson for pricing.

Ms. Russell said that she thinks that they need more information on the potential for septic failures.

Mr. Nickerson said that as it was approved for septic that he would like to have someone from LLHD come to their meeting and explain the system that is there and why they feel that the system is appropriate.

13. Chairman's Report

Mr. Nickerson reported that the beaches are open and that they are allowing a certain number of non-residents in per day. Rocky Neck fills up by 10AM each day. He also reported that the Public Safety building needs another \$2.1M for the project and that there would probably be a referendum on it sometime in the end of July. The presidential primary is in August. The Library plans on opening July 6th and the Boardwalk will probably open the same day for two-way walking. He is hoping that there will be some concerts in August.

Mr. DiGiovanna said that he sees Old Lyme is hooking up with some beach associations there – he asked if they have their own capacity from New London.

Mr. Nickerson said yes.

Mr. Kargl noted that our agreement is for pass-through only and that they are billed accordingly.

Mr. Nickerson said that there has been nothing on the Tri-Town Agreement due to Covid but he hopes that they will be getting together in July.

14. Staff Updates

a. Water Department Monthly Report

Ms. Russell asked about the Gateway Phase II projected completion date for it.

Mr. Nickerson said that they will start to come on line in the next couple of months – so many units at a time then rolling in succession after that initial start.

Ms. Russell said that at some point in time they had spoken about adding some monitoring wells.

Mr. Kargl said that they tossed it around but funding was an issue.

b. Sewer Department Monthly Report

Mr. Russell noted that the footnote is still there.

Mr. Kargl said that it has been fixed and that no adjustment is needed.

Ms. Russell asked if for the next meeting that could have a real update on capacity and allocations.

Mr. Murphy suggested that they wait as they are probably going to see skewed numbers due to Covid and people being home more and other issues.

Mr. Nickerson said that the department is involved in many projects at this time and that this would be undertaken as time permits.

15. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nickerson called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn this Zoom Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:24 PM.

Mr. Jacques seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary