

**EAST LYME WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th, 2022  
MINUTES**

The East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 25th, 2022. Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director  
Ben North, Municipal Utility Engineer  
Anna Johnson, Finance Director  
Ann Santoro, Deputy First Selectman

**ABSENT:** No One

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Seery called the Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

▪ **Regular Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2021**

Mr. Seery called for a motion or any discussion on the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2021.

Mr. Murphy asked that on Page 1 in the Present listing that Acting be removed after Mr. Seery's name.

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

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2021 as amended.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

FILED

**3. Delegations**

Mr. Seery called for delegations.

There were none.

Feb 1 2022 AT 10:05 AM/PM

*(Cammie Mullen)*

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**4. Billing Adjustments/Disputes**

There were none.

**5. Approval of Bills**

Mr. Seery called for a motion on the Well 1A/6 Treatment Project bill.

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

Mr. DiGiovanna moved to approve the following Well 1A/6 Treatment Project bill: Tighe & Bond Inv. #012290003 in the amount of \$31,992.80.

Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Mr. Murphy asked about retainage.

Mr. North said that we do not hold any, but he would check and let them know.

Vote: 8 – 0 – 1. Motion passed.

Abstained: Mr. Bond

## **6. Finance Director Report**

Ms. Johnson reviewed her report noting that the available cash balances for both water and sewer were a bit higher than in the previous year at this time.

## **7. Project Updates**

### **▪ Meter Replacement Project**

Mr. North reported that 313 more new meters were installed in December bringing the total to 711 or 26% that have been installed. They are looking for another person to help increase meter installs. They were looking to be at the 33% rate and closer to 50% until they ran into seasonal and omicron issues. They are sending out post cards for the next appointment areas and will be more assertive on the next go around.

Mr. Bragaw said that he was putting together a video on what the meter replacement is and the how and why it is being done and how it benefits the homeowners. He noted that he has had a lot of positive feedback and that the program is within budget.

Mr. Bond suggested that they have to make the owners themselves aware of how beneficial it is as if they have a leak it will eliminate a huge water bill by being able to catch it early.

Mr. North noted that with the spring turn-ons that they will have the opportunity to change out meters also.

### **▪ Update on Well 5 Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. North reported that today they received the contract for the scaffolding set-up and all of the work will begin – the well driller will come in. They have ordered items that will require long lead times.

Mr. Jacques asked if they are still looking good on the budget.

Mr. North said yes.

### **▪ American Rescue Plan Discussion on Upcoming Projects**

Mr. Seery noted that he had asked all of his Department Managers to have any recommendations to him by February 2, 2022 for the ARP committee to go over.

Mr. North reported that the list has the same items on it but with the amounts updated to reflect prevailing wage. He thinks that the scope is better defined.

Mr. Bragaw noted that they are well aware that there are many other items and they will follow up with others and any potential federal dollars that may be available.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked if they were giving all three items as listed.

Mr. Bragaw said yes – they are giving all three of the items however they are listed in the order of priority.

Mr. DiGiovanna noted that these are items that they are going to have to be doing.

Ms. Russell asked if in not doing the \$550,000 interior work on the Boston Post Road water tank – how long a time they will have until it needs to be done.

Mr. North said that once they go in there that they would know better as they would do an interior inspection.

Ms. Russell asked if after it is inspected, they find that it needs to be done – what would they do.

Mr. Seery and Mr. Bragaw said that the ARP dollars do free up other dollars that they would have had to use for those projects. He called for a motion -

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

**Mr. Mingo moved to forward the recommended Water & Sewer projects for consideration to the ARP committee for consideration. (Copy of List attached)**

**Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.**

▪ **Discussion and Possible Action on Project to replace Valves at Sewer Pump Stations**

Mr. North presented the list and quote for the DeZurik 4" 3-way Valve Replacements. He asked that they take the dollars from sewer assessment.

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

**Mr. Murphy moved to appropriate and transfer \$28,024.00 in the sewer assessment fund from resources available to an account to be established titles, "3-Way Valve Replacement Project" for the purchase of main isolation valves for eight (8) sewer pump stations.**

**Mr. DiGiovanna seconded the motion.**

Mr. Spencer asked if the cost was \$28,000 or \$25,000

Mr. North said that he had added \$3,000 for shipping.

Mr. Bond asked if our staff was going to install them.

Mr. North said yes, adding that we have been doing them.

**Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.**

▪ **Discussion on Residential Grinder Pump Ownership**

Mr. North said that this could be very cumbersome for the water & sewer people. He noted that when the homes changed from one owner to another that other Towns have turned the ownership over to the new owner.

Mr. Bragaw said that he will check with Town Counsel on the legality of it and get back to them.

Mr. DiGiovanna asked if they are located inside of the home.

Mr. Bragaw said yes, adding that they are easily accessible.

Mr. Bond said that Waterford did this but suggested that they would need a plumber on retained in the event that they have issues.

Mr. Mingo noted that there was a necessity to them due to elevation.

Mr. North said that they do have 28 of them and that they are usually reliable but can get clogged from people putting the wrong items down them which cause the issues.

Mr. Mingo suggested that if people put wrong items down them and miss-use them then the people should pay for the full repair.

Mr. North said that he would work it out and bring back more information for them to discuss.

**8. Correspondence Log**

There were no comments.

Mr. North asked that they see him if they want the full copies.

**9. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Seery reported that they had received 1300 test kits and have handed them out. The Governor's Office stated how they have to be allocated – senior centers, AHEPA, Twin Haven, etc, so they have a limited supply.

He noted that on a good note that they numbers are trending downward so they are heading in the right direction.

Also, the rain storm event flooded some of the beach areas; he gave kudos to everyone involved in the extensive clean-up. The ARP committee will be meeting soon and budget meetings will begin the first week in February.

With regard to the hybrid meetings; they will hopefully be projected to the side wall as they want to try to make it work for everyone. Mr. Bragaw will be looking for 75" flat screens.

## **10. Staff Updates**

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

Mr. Russell asked about the flooding that just happened and if it brought up any concerns with our infrastructure.

Mr. Bragaw said that there was 3 feet of water on Atlantic Street and that some of the manholes need to be tightened up. All of Cini Park was also flooded.

Ms. Russell said that resilience thinks that we will have to be planning for 500 year storms.

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

Mr. Spencer asked about any increase in capacity in New London.

Mr. Bragaw said that they have not done anything about it yet.

## **11. Future Agenda Items**

No discussion.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Seery called for a motion to adjourn.

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

**Mr. DiGiovanna moved to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the East Lyme Water & Sewer Commission at 8:00 PM.**

**Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 9 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,  
Recording Secretary

**East Lyme Water and Sewer Commission  
American Rescue Plan  
Upcoming Staff Recommended Projects for Consideration  
January 25 2021**

Project	Priority Level	Dec 2021 Estimated Cost	Updated Cost Estimate	Description of Work to be Performed
Upgrade Niantic Sewer Pump Station	1	\$350,000	\$600,000	Replace two original motor/driveshaft pumps, remove PARCO hydraulic actuating valve system, modify piping, add VFD controls.
Recoat Boston Post Rd Water Tank	2	\$600,000	\$750,000	Sand blast and paint exterior of tank. Additional Costs: Interior spot coat and cathodic protection for \$150k or an additional \$550k for total interior recoat. Interior spot coat reflected in price increase.
Upgrade Pattaganset Sewer Pump Station	3	\$300,000	\$450,000	Replace three original motor/driveshaft pumps, modify piping, add VFD controls.
Total Costs of all Projects Considered:			\$1,800,000	

Note: ARPA funding already allocated - \$920,000 for a new well and filter rehabilitation work at Well 5 WTP

EAST LYME  
 WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
 JAN 25 2022  
 AGENDA # 7c

*Attachment Wes 1/25/22 (Motion 3)*