

**Chester Water Pollution Control Authority  
Regular Meeting, August 18, 2015  
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**Call to Order**

The Chester Water Pollution Control Authority held its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at the Chester Town Hall, Conference Room C, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT. In attendance were Bert Armington, Sam Chorches, Felise Cressman and Jim Pease. Others present included First Selectman Ed Meehan, Brian Curtis from Nathan Jacobson & Associates and John Ely and Peter Lewis from Deep River. Chairman Armington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Audience of Citizens – none.**

**Old Business:**

Discussion ensued about flow meter options. Chairman Armington noted that the flow meter is still not working even though it has been cleaned and the stones removed. The flow meter records twice as much flow as the pump run times would indicate. An alternative is to either replace the flow meter or have it recalibrated. The last recalibration, which was two years ago, cost \$1500, and has not solved the problem. Several people with technical expertise on this subject have claimed that although this is an expensive and sensitive flow meter, this was the wrong unit for this application.

Chairman Armington noted that he spoke to Peter Lewis this week to settle on an acceptable alternative. Mr. Lewis stated that a magnetic meter in the Chester pump station would be acceptable and in agreement with the terms of the Chester/Deep River agreement.

Brian Curtis stated that there was a meeting today at the pump station to determine if the force main stack could accommodate a magnetic meter. It was determined that this system would be appropriate. He indicated the meter has a read-out which can be monitored at the control box, and is inspected weekly by Deep River.

Pease noted he would like to see some confirmation of calibration and that needs to be checked on a regular basis. He noted he has some experience with these devices, and they have been known to have inaccuracies with an inappropriate application.

Mr. Curtis noted that everything that is pumped to Deep River would be measured by the new flow meter, so infiltration will also be measured. The only exception to that would be the last 300 +/- feet of gravity sewer line past the Deep River Town line. He then presented an estimate of \$4000 for a new magnetic flow meter including installation.

Cressman noted that a new meter appears to be the only choice. Armington replied there are other choices but they are far more expensive. He noted the cost of the magnetic meter was not that prohibitive.

Pease asked if there is any level of confidence just going off pump run times and using that as the basis billing. Brian Curtis noted that is what was done for years until the present in-line flow meter was installed. The pumps were calibrated periodically, and the run times were multiplied by the calibrated flow rate. It is not as accurate as a flow meter but it represents an approximate flow. A magnetic flow meter would be more accurate to an error rate of .55%, and is, in fact required by DEEP.

First Selectman Meehan asked if this would require a weekly or monthly inspection, and would it be labor intensive. Armington noted Deep River already inspects the pump station weekly. Meehan asked if there is exterior read-out. Armington noted that a read-out at the pump station would be more convenient than the current meter next to Route 154. He stated this was discussed last January when we couldn't do an inspection of the flow meter because of the snow on the side of the road.

**Motion by Chorches, second by Cressman, to purchase and install a magnetic flow meter at the pump station.**

Discussion followed. Pease noted for the record his concern about regular calibration until confidence is developed that this new system will give reliable results. Armington noted that meter readings can be compared to run times each month. He also noted there is an agreement with Deep River which requires compatibility with Deep River's equipment. Peter Lewis stated that this meter is compatible, and would satisfy that requirement. Timing for installation was reviewed, probably 2 weeks. Chairman Armington reminded the commission that money had been added to the budget for equipment upgrades and replacements for this year. Chorches asked if the price of \$4000 was definite. The reply was yes.

**Vote on motion – Unanimously Approved.**

**Determination of equipment priorities:**

Peter Lewis explained his concerns about the aging pumps. He noted that the pumps have been losing efficiency over the last several years, and that all equipment in the pump station is over eight years old. Armington said that last year there was talk about purchasing a spare macerator, or rebuilding our replaced macerator, but discussion about that purchase was tabled because of concerns about pumps and flow meters. Priorities need to be determined for getting backup equipment. It is more important to have a pump than a macerator.

Cressman noted a better decision could be made if we had a list of what is needed for backup. It was noted there are only 2 things – a macerator and a pump, perhaps even 2 pumps. Chorches asked if they sell rebuilt pumps. The reply was yes but Armington noted the price difference is negligible, and a rebuilt pump would not have a guarantee.

There was further discussion regarding whether insurance would cover damage to our equipment caused by lightening. Meehan stated that he has had discussions with Archambault Insurance Company about this, and would get a definitive answer from Tom Archambault as soon as possible.

**Motion by Chorches, second by Pease, to authorize a plan to provide a pump backup. Unanimously Approved.**

Chairman Armington reiterated that these issues need to be attended to very soon. Chorches noted that the system is in place, and the focus now needs to be on maintenance.

**New Business – none.**

Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Chorches, second by Armington, to approve the June 30, 2015 Public Hearing and Special Meeting Minutes noting the spelling correction of “Chorches”. Unanimously Approved.**

Next Meeting: September 15, 2015 – Town Hall Conference Room C at 7:00 PM.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Judith R. Brown, Recording Sec.

