

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 arrived shortly after meeting began. 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 about flow meter options

Discussion ensued about flow meter options. Chairman Armington noted the flow meter is still not working even though it has been cleaned and the stones removed. It shows we are using twice as much as the pump run times say we are using. An alternative is to either replace it or have it recalibrated. The recalibration costs \$1500. The level was reset to zero flow but it got worse after that. Several people have said this was the wrong application for that system.

Chairman Armington noted he spoke to Pete Lewis this week to see what would be an acceptable alternative. Pete seems to think a magnetic meter in the pump station would be acceptable.

Brian Curtis noted there was a meeting today at the pump station to look at the configuration of the piping. Mr. Curtis explained how the piping was done. He indicated the flow is monitored every week by John and reviewed how that was done.

Jim Pease noted he would to see some confirmation of calibration and that needs to be checked on a regular basis. He noted he has some experience with this and there has been results that were less than accurate.

Brian noted anything that goes to Deep River would go through the pipe with the exception of the last 300 +/- feet of gravity sewer which would not be measured.

Brian noted he had an estimate of \$4000 for a new magnetic flow meter installed price. It would be installed by a local representative and electrician.

Chairman Armington reiterated it has been stated previously that was the wrong application for that flow meter.

Felise Cressman noted it appears this is 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.

Jim Pease asked if there is any level of confidence just going off pump run times and using that as the basis of flows. Brian Curtis noted that is what was done for years until the change was made. The pumps were calibrated periodically and the run times were multiplied by the calibrated flow rate. It is not as accurate but its an approximate flow. A magnetic flow meter would be more accurate.

Chairman Armington noted if the question is are pump run times an adequate measure of flow, the answer is no. Its approximate.

First Selectman Meehan asked if this would require a weekly or monthly inspection, and would it be labor intensive. Armington noted Deep River goes down there every week anyway. Ed asked if there is exterior reading. Bert noted it would be better than what we have now and would be a lot safer. He stated this was discussed last January but we couldn't do an inspection 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. Jim noted for the record his concern mostly is he wants it to be able to be calibrated and verified on a regular basis until confidence is developed that his new type of system will give reliable results. If the results are reliable, then he is fine with it. Bert noted it can be compared to run times each month. Bert also noted there is an agreement with Deep River that the system must be compatible with Deep River. It was agreed this system was compatible. Timing for installation was reviewed, probably 2 weeks. Bert noted money had been added to the budget for equipment upgrades and replacements for this year. Sam asked if the price of \$4000 was definite. The reply was yes. **Vote on motion - Unanimously Approved.**

Determination of equipment priorities

Pete Lewis explained his concerns about the aging pump. He noted that station is several years old. He wasn't sure if insurance would

cover any replacement. Bert asked if the ground put in a couple years ago wouldn't make a difference. He also noted last year there was talk about a spare macerator, or a rebuilt macerator, but it was tabled because we started talking about pumps and flow meters. Priorities need to be determined for getting backup equipment. It is more important to have a pump rather than a macerator.

Felise 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. Sam asked if they sell rebuilt pumps. The reply was yes but Bert noted the price difference is negligible and then you have something that you cannot be sure of.

There was further discussion regarding whether insurance would cover this. It was suggested this be looked into further.

It was noted the pump has been losing its efficiency over the last several years.

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

Chairman Armington reiterated these issues need to be attended to and very soon. Sam noted the system is in there and the focus now should be on maintenance.

New Business - none.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Chorches, second by Armington, to approve 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 7:00 PM.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted

*Judith R. Brown*

Judith R. Brown, Recording Sec.