

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT WPCA MEETING  
Town of Chester, Connecticut  
Water Pollution Control Authority  
Regular Meeting  
May 18, 2021  
Via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Meehan called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance included: Ed Meehan, Chairman, Ed Ward, Sam Chorches, Ian McLachlan and Mark Riggio.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Chorches made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/20/21 meeting. Mark Riggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

4 Water Street Pump Station Agreement – April 21, 1982

Ed Meehan reported that he followed up with the Town Treasurer relative to the \$11,904 of EDU fees reimbursed to Mr. Cook as approved by WPCA, March 1991. In 1991, the Town Treasurer was not handling financial transactions for the WPCA. This work was contracted out to Jacobson & Associates. Ed has requested that Jacobson research the history of the 1991 payment. Any additional information will be provided to WPCA members and discussed at a future WPCA meeting.

Discussion of EDU Methodology and Draft Clarifying Language  
Assessment of Benefit Requirement for New Connections

In October 2007, a Town Referendum approved the assessment of benefit fees as a revenue source with a 25% on users and 75% on the Town split to pay the \$1.125 million project costs not funded by grants.

In March 2009 Ed Ward, as Chairman of the WPCA, provided detailed written explanation to all property owners of record within the sewer service area relative to sewer lateral connections (Hook Up) costs, annual estimated user fee cost and payment of Benefit Assessment Information for users.

Ed Meehan will review this above information and draft a brief narrative for posting on the Town's WPCA web page as an additional explanation of the process and costs of connection to Chester's sanitary sewers system. This draft will be shared with WPCA members for review and approval before placement on web site.

In addition to coordination with Inland Wetlands review new system connection applications will be also be shared with Conn. River Area Health District (CRADH) and sewer connection documents will be filed in the property street files located in the Land Use office.

Update of 2006 Sewer Service Area Map

Jacobson continues to work on the update to the Sewer Service Area Map.

River Tavern's Compliance with Discharge Permit/AGRU Reports

Ed Meehan reported that Mr. Rapp, River Tavern, via an email today, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:40 PM, sent a brief apology for his lack of cooperation relative to not submitting the required AGRU reports for the past 14

months, since March 2020. Ed Meehan reviewed the two Notice of Violations sent to River Tavern on March 22 and April 22, 2021 with final a compliance due date of May 14, 2021. No request for relief from reporting for the months of March to December 2020, when the restaurant was closed, was requested by River Tavern. For the 4 months since re-opening, January to April 2021, Mr. Rapp has not submitted the AGRU reports. Mr. Rapp has had over 50 days to respond and explain why these required reports have been ignored.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Dave Campbell, Jacobson & Associates, conducted an inspection of River Tavern's AGRU and found the equipment not working, not cleaned and no records of preventing grease from entering the building sanitary sewer connection. At that meeting Mr. Campbell again reviewed WPCA's maintenance requirements and told Mr. Rapp to submit the AGRU reports and he would return next week for another inspection of River Tavern's equipment. Mr. Campbell reinspection was today, May 18<sup>th</sup> and reported by email at 3:58PM to Chairman Meehan that the system was clean as required. Mr. Rapp provided some forms to Mr. Campbell, but these forms are incomplete, not dated, not signed and do not document the maintenance of the AGRU equipment for the past four months of restaurant re-opening.

Ed Meehan recommended that River Tavern reimburse the WPCA for the extra time that has been required of Jacobson & Associates for months repetitive report requests and re-inspect of the AGRU equipment. The WPCA should also require again that Mr. Rapp submit the required reports for the March to December 2020 months or request that the WPCA defer the necessity of these reports due to the Pandemic. In addition, Ed Meehan suggested that the WPCA issue River Tavern fines for non-compliance for the four months of January to April 2021.

WPCA members discussed Chairman Meehan's recommendation. Ed Ward suggested that non-compliance at River Tavern is not a new issue; this establishment continues to be non-compliant with WPCA regulations.

Ed Ward made a motion to assess penalty payments to River Tavern for all additional Jacobson & Associates expenses related to the re-inspections and in addition fine River Tavern \$200 per day for the 4 months of non-compliance January through April 2021. The motion was not seconded.

Ed Meehan reported that the NOVs, sent Certified Mail, outline the WPCA's ability to fine establishments for non-compliance. The WPCA offered a generous amount of time for River Tavern to come into compliance with regulations; however Mr. Rapp did not respond to those NOVs in a timely manner.

Sam Chorches made a motion to fine River Tavern \$500 per month for the months of January, February, March and April 2021 for non compliance with WPCA regulations and to charge River Tavern for costs associated with Jacobson & Associates 5/18/21 re-inspection of the restaurant (amount to be determined). These fines are due by June 15, 2021. If not received by June 15, 2021, a \$500 per day fee will be added until paid in full and a lien will be placed on the property. Ian McLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ed Ward abstaining from the vote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

April 2021 AGRU Compliance Reports – N.L. Jacobson & Assoc.

A copy of the April AGRU Compliance Log was included in the WPCA packet. All establishments, with the exception of River Tavern, were in compliance.

System Operations - Sewer Manholes Repairs Behind Colt House

Ed Meehan reported that Jacobson & Associates will prepare a cost estimate for repair of manholes and sewer line between the Pattaconk and Hot French Chix establishments. As discussed, a specific strategy and equipment will be necessary to access this narrow area adjacent to the Pattaconk Brook.

The renovations at the Colt House will not impact the WPCA work needed in the area. The property owners are aware of the WPCA's access easement. Jacobson & Associates recommends the sewer line in this section be cleaned in the fall of 2021, as a preventative measure, and anticipate beginning the project in the spring of 2022.

8 North Main Street – Request for Reimbursement – Extra Work for Street Manhole Connection

The WPCA previously approved the Archambault's request to tie into the system. They contracted with Ahearn & Sons to facilitate this project. While tying into the system, Ahearn discovered that the street manhole was defective and filled with waste/ground water. Additional, unanticipated work was necessary for Ahearn to complete the project (as outlined in an email from Matt Carroll, Jacobson & Associates). The Archambault's are requesting that the WPCA reimburse them for the additional costs (that are the WPCA's responsibility) associated with the project (a bill from Ahearn was included in the WPCA packet).

Ed Ward made a motion to reimburse Tom and Cathy Archambault the amount of \$1,850.00 for costs associated with the additional street manhole repair necessary for connection to the sewer system. Ian McLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hot French Chix – Request for Relief April 2021 Pump Out

Mr. Reed, Hot French Chix, has requested that the WPCA grant a deferral relative to the pump out of the in-ground tank associated with their restaurant (due to lack of use during the Pandemic).

Jacobson reports that the tank is in good condition and recommends that it be pumped out in October 2021.

Sam Chorches made a motion to permit the deferral of tank pump out as requested by Hot French Chix. The tank must be pumped in October 2021. Ian McLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

Masonicare Chester Village West – Sewer Maintenance/Replacement Surety

As previously discussed, Masonicare provided appropriate documentation from People's Bank (Application and Reimbursement Agreement for Irrevocable Stand-by Letter of Credit) relative to the State and WPCA required surety on their community system.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ian McLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk