

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT WPCA MEETING

TOWN OF CHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, December 21, 2021  
Community Meeting Room  
Chester Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Meehan called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m. In attendance included: Ed Meehan, Sam Chorches, Mark Riggio, Andrew Gardner, BOF member, and Isaac Ruiz.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Chorches made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/16/21 WPCA meeting. Mark Riggio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) – WPCA Project Requests – First Round Request – not to exceed \$93,000

As previously discussed, the WPCA developed plans in July relative to necessary projects; i.e. pump station repairs and switch, Colt House project, Water Street line replacement. At the November BOF meeting, the WPCA's requested \$93,000 allocation for the use of ARPA funds to facilitate these projects was approved. Quotes were developed for these projects in conjunction with Jacobson and Associates. At the December 15, 2021 Town Meeting the WPCA's request for ARPA funds was tabled. Note that all of the WPCA projects are an eligible use of ARPA funds.

Discussion and Authorization to Schedule and Proceed with Initiation of Projects:

- Pump Station Emergency Generator Repairs and Emergency Transfer Switch – Top Notch provided a quote of \$8,675 for this project. In addition, an insurance claim (\$1,000 deductible) was filed relative to the damage caused by nesting mice/chipmunks. Ed has a “virtual” meeting on 12/23 with the adjuster from Hartford Steam Boiler to discuss the claim. Ed will update the First Selectman and WPCA on the results of the insurance claim and potential repairs to the generator. Ed will follow-up Top Notice/GDL regarding costs associated with the portable generator currently in place at the pump station. It is anticipated that the cost for this unit will be \$2,400 per month. These fees can be included in the insurance claim. The quote for the transfer switch portion of the project is \$13,500.
- Colt House Sewer Right of Way and Manhole Repairs – A 60 to 70 ft. portion of the sewer line is compromised due to tree roots affecting the flow. This line serves the Perfect Pear, Colt House and Pattaconk. A \$19,458.00 quote was received (Schumack) for this repair. The pipe was originally installed in the 1980s. The details of accessing the area; i.e. over the brook or removal of a fence in the “old” town hall area, are to be determined. An \$8,460 quote was received to re-build the sanitary manhole as it is caving in. Note that this project requires a contractor certified by OSHA for confined space entry.
- Water Street Pump Station Sewer Line Replacement or Lining – Jacobson recommends that 3 sections of the pipe be replaced due to corrosion. These are the original iron pipes from the 1980s. Cost estimates for this project are \$34,000. Jacobson recommends that the pipes be

“relined” after cleaning. Note that this is specialized work and not many contractors are qualified to do it. In addition, a 25% contingency and incidental charge is recommended for this project.

The consensus of the Board was that the priority project at this time is the repairs to the generator. The date of the next Town Meeting on ARPA funds has not yet been determined (perhaps sometime in January). Unfortunately, the longer these projects are put “on hold”, the more expensive they become and there is the risk that the contractors will move on to other jobs.

Board members expressed disappointment that the request for ARPA funds was tabled at the Town Meeting in spite of the WPCA’s due diligence in researching these projects, along with review by Jacobson.

#### Project for WPCA Consideration – Revisions to 2007 Sewer Service Area Map

The 2005 sewer service area map is currently being updated, as previously discussed. When complete, this map will be used in conjunction with the narrative of assessment of benefit and user fees and posted on the website. The WPCA will pursue possible ARPA funds to facilitate the GIS map relative to this initiative.

#### 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark Riggio made a motion to adopt the 2022 WPCA Meeting Schedule as follows: 7 p.m., Town Hall, 1/18/22, 2/15/22, 3/15/22, 4/19/22, 5/17/22, 6/21/22, 7/19/22, 8/16/22, 9/20/22, 10/18/22, 11/15/22 and 12/20/22. Sam Chorches seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### NOVEMBER RESTAURANT AGRU REPORTS AND COMPLIANCE

Ed distributed a copy of the report. All appropriate reports have been submitted as required.

Ed reported that the WPCA, via Jacobson and the Health District, has restaurants inspected monthly for FOG (Fats Oil Grease) compliance as required. If grease traps are not properly maintained in the restaurants, the laterals back up and require cleaning at considerable costs. In the past, fines have been issued to restaurants for non-compliance.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Draft Explanation Sewer User Connection Charges – The WPCA’s regulations will need to be updated when the sewer map is completed. These regulations have not been updated since 2011 and the WPCA may wish to re-visit them; especially as the Little House Brewing Company is considered an “industrial use”.
- Budget Status and User Fee (EDU) Payment Status – The Tax Collector reports that we have collected 55% of the fees that were billed. The balance of the budget is made up by fund balance. Note that the fund balance was used to maintain user fees during the pandemic.

Ed clarified that the EDUs at 14 Main Street increased due to Connecticut Water Company usage data. This information was relayed to the property owner.

#### AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

WPCA members were available to address questions of audience members and to provide clarification relative to opportunities to increase users to the system. Note that individuals are not required to tie into the system if their septic system fails, as long as they are able to demonstrate that the system can

be repaired. The benefit assessment charge is still the responsibility of the property owner, even if they do not tie into the system.

Andrew Gardner expressed the need of sustainability relative to the WPCA. Ed Meehan reported that without the ARPA funds, the WPCA could not afford to do these necessary projects. The WPCA's Capital Budget would be increased yearly to cover the costs of these projects.

Mr. Gardner spoke in favor of the WPCA's projects and expressed appreciation for the WPCA members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Riggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01p.m. Sam Chorches seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Clerk