East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Special Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2021

1. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew Lord called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Edward Blaschik, Richard Fiala, Chairman Andrew Lord, and Richard Pettinelli via phone
Members Absent: John Russell
Other Present: Zach Dutton – departed 6:35

3. Discussion

a. **Clean Water Ops Report**

Mr. Dutton provided his report; there is all good news to report with everything operating as planned. The ability to swap tanks has been put in place, but the switch will not happen until the spring to provide the biologics a chance to operate fully.
Mr. Dutton noted that the tank on Lumberyard Road that was not under the right account has been addressed.

b. **Banner Estates Emergency Fund Payment**

As previously discussed at the Special Meeting in August, the WPCA approved the release of funds to pay for the Banner Estates pump replacement so that there are two working pumps.
The Banner Homeowners association is now requesting additional time to repay the funds. Discussion ensued related to the repayment discussions that occurred at the August meeting. The HOA president noted the HOA would either add a special assessment to cover the cost or would raise the overall assessment. In the recent letter to the WPCA, the HOA president noted that more time is needed to repay the funds.
Mr. Ventres denoted that the system has few working parts and the likelihood of another huge repair would be low. There is another fund that has monies, if needed.

Motion by Mr. Blaschik to allow 12 months repayment, to be paid monthly equal payments with 18% interest, with any default resulting in the entire balance due. Any early repayment will be accepted. Second by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved.

c. Property Request for EDU Reductions

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The owner of 32 Main Street received a notification of increase but did not pass along the information to the owner of Higher Ground, so she was not aware of the rate increase. Mr. Ventres received a call from the Higher Ground restaurant owner, who noted that the seating is only for 12 people, instead of 16 people, so would like an EDU reduction. The request is not about the rate increase, but is related to adjusting the EDU, since the usage is only for 12 people instead of 16.

Mr. Ventres noted that there is no relief for utilities under COVID at the local level. Discussion ensued with the commission members to discuss the EDU reduction and how to address it – how other businesses handled their floor plans to get to the seating occupancy. The overall concern is setting a precedent; discussion ensued around how in this particular case, there is a need to update the occupancy. There are enough supporting facts to grant the exception but it could be seen as setting a precedent.

Mr. Blaschik noted that this space used to be office space and converted to a restaurant. Changing to a restaurant now has resulted in clarification on the spacing and occupancy. Other restaurants have completed very comprehensive seating plans, which this location did not have on file.

Motion by Mr. Pettinelli to reduce EDUs to reflect the actual seats, from 1.4 EDUs to 1.1 EDUs, with the amendment, after a site inspection and corrected seat count. Second by Mr. Fiala. Motion carried, 3 to 1.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Blaschik at 7:04. Second by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary