East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024

1. Call to Order

   Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Attendance

   Members Present: Chairman Andrew Lord, Edward Blaschik, John Russell, Bob Casner
   Members Absent: Richard Pettinelli, Richard Fiala
   Others Present: Jim Ventres, Will Abramczyk, Patrick Burke

3. Minutes

   Motion by Mr. Blaschik to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Russell and unanimously approved.

4. Discussion

   a. Clean Water Ops Report –

      Mr. Abramczyk joined to provide an update on the performance of the treatment plan. All pertinent requirements have been met over the past few months. He noted that the plan is moving forward now that it has recovered from the issue that killed all the healthy microorganisms earlier this year.
      Mr. Lord asked for clarification around the microorganisms. Mr. Abramczyk noted that they are now seeing microorganisms go thru their normal lifecycle. The flows are slightly elevated due to the time of year and that has enabled more biomass to come into the plant for the microorganisms to feed on.
      The cost of that event was around $18,000 to $23,000 to handle the extra hauling, bringing in new microorganisms, diverting some of the influent to make sure that the microorganisms were not instantly killed, etc. The big cost was hauling costs.
      Mr. Lord asked if there is an early indicator that can be watched going forward to catch an issue prior to it impacting all the microorganisms. Mr. Abramczyk noted that any indication is delayed and when something is detectable, the event is fully in force.
      Mr. Abramczyk noted that the issue seemed to be a single event that could have just taken a long time to be removed from the whole system. The goal is to move wastewater to the plant quickly to make sure it does not become toxic.
      Mr. Abramczyk noted that while the effluent was tested, there was no definitive test to identify the substance.
      Clean Water Ops moved to a different generator vendor, and Mr. Abramczyk is very happy with the service and support that they offer. They did a much more thorough inspection on the system compared to the prior operator. Mr. Abramczyk noted that Mr. Blaschik suggested the generator vendor and they are excellent.

There is a new odor control media being shipped and will be used.
The microscopes have been serviced and the microorganisms are now being checked weekly to ensure there is a fully established biomass.
The plant was out of compliance for one month due to the event, and Mr. Abramczyk is very happy to note that the plant is now back in compliance.

b. 23 Main Street – Society Hall Tavern/3 Air B&B Units/1 apartment

Mr. Ventres provided floor plans. The work is not completed yet on the renovations. There are 3 Air B&Bs and they have COs. The apartment on the 3rd floor is not yet completed. The ground floor is a Class 2 license restaurant, where they can heat things and serve. There is not the ability to cook whole meals from scratch. The renovation may not be complete until September. For the ground floor, he recommended 2 EDUs, for the 3 Air B&B he suggested 1 EDU, and for the apartment he suggested 1 EDU as well. The owner will also install a water meter. The EDUs are Mr. Ventres best guess as to how many EDUs to charge.

Motion by Mr. Casner to use 4 EDUs for 23 Main Street for their sewer charges. Seconded by Mr. Blaschik and unanimously approved.

c. Banner Estates Reserve Fund

Mr. Burke joined to update the WPCA as to the Banner Estates Homeowners Association having two funds set up that the Town has controlled and maintained since inception. The Association would like to take control of those funds and put the monies into their reserve. He walked through how the monies will be used for standard items, like maintenance accounts. People are not able to get Fannie Mae loans due to the reserves being not at the level they need to be for the loans to be approved. Mr. Lord outlined there is a requirement for the permit from the community septic system for the Town to have monies to use if the Town has to step in to support Banner Estates' septic system. Mr. Ventres will review the permit and the requirements under the statues again. Mr. Lord outlined that the Town has a statutory responsibility to service the system if needed. The committee discussed options and noted they are interested in finding an agreeable solution while protecting the Town.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Blaschik at 8:28. Second by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary