East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Attendance

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

3. Minutes

A motion by Mr. Casner to approve the May 20, 2024, minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Pettinelli to move the agenda item to first. Seconded by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.

4. Discussion

a. Banner Estates Reserve Fund

Mr. Ventres talked with his contact person from the State of Connecticut who said they do not care how the funds are handled, just that they are handled and kept current. Given this information, Mr. Ventres outlined there are two funds in existence today, a permanent fund that must be kept with enough monies to address inspections and reporting, and a repair and replace fund that was never fully funded by the owner/developer given that the last section of 30 units was not built. The permanent fund would remain as it exists today, which is owned and managed by the Town of East Haddam. The repair and replace fund will be turned over to Banner Estates Homeowner Association to manage on their own, with the caveat that no monies can be used without the Town co-signing the withdrawal.

Mr. Ventres noted that the owner of Banner Estates must concur with the change. The owner must maintain the permit including the new units. The repair and replacement fund account will be owned by Banner and therefore adding monies or collecting dues can be accomplished much easier than the way it is handled now.

Mr. Ventres will send out an update to the commission for their review and comments, to enable some discussion at the next scheduled meeting. If needed, a special meeting can also be called to review the proposed changes.

b. Clean Water Ops Report

Ms. Kneeland provided an update on the plant. The plant is working as it should. There was a problem with hitting one of the measurements and therefore the permit was not met for the fecal measurements last month. Part of the UV system broke and was unable to disinfect the effluent, which caused the permit not to be met. The electrician addressed the issue and now the UV system has been fixed. All measurements are back in line with the permit and meeting required standards. DEEP requires a report to explain the issue of failure, which has been supplied to CT DEEP.

There was a power outage for most of the village that ran for a few days and the pump house unit was working on power until it was shut down to fix the nearby power outage for most of the village. The generator at the plant did not automatically come on due to an issue with the module. When the operator arrived, the generator was manually started, and the treatment plant biology was not harmed by the outage. The module has been ordered for replacement. The SBR tank switching is still planned, given the generator was running, propane was delivered to replenish the propane tanks.

There was an issue with the phone and the auto-dialer did not send a notice when the power went out. That is in process of being addressed. The new odor control was installed but did not start due to the variable frequency drive being broken; the variable frequency drive was disconnect as odor control needs to run 24x7 and does not need to be turned off. She is very happy to report that the plant is back in good working order.

Mr. Pettinelli asked for clarity as to how the charges compare to the budget. Mr. Ventres will work on getting the information to the commission, so they are aware of how the plant is operating on a monthly basis compared to the budget.

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

Mr. Ventres noted there will be a change to the EDUs. The top apartment and a few of the Air B&B were opened and the well went dry. The column of water and recharge does not support the amount of use for the units and tavern designed. The owner is going to change the tavern into units and the EDU will be readjusted based on the new units. Mr. Ventres will bring the matter back to the commission upon a new plan from the owner.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pettinelli at 7:33, second by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary