East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

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

3. Minutes

   Motion by Mr. Casner to approve the July 15, 2024 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Blaschik and unanimously approved. Mr. Blaschik abstained.

4. Banner Estates Reserve Fund

   Motion by Mr. Blaschik to move this agenda item up to the top of the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.

   Mr. Ventres talked with his DEEP contact who does not have a preference as to how the funds are handled. He has sent an email to the owner, who promptly sent it to his attorney, Mr. Ward. Mr. Ventres noted that the owner must be in agreement before anything is changed in terms of the funds. Mr. Ward was on vacation until today and Mr. Ventres has not received any update from him. Once Mr. Ventres hears back from Mr. Ward, he will bring the proposal to the Town attorney. Mr. Ventres will provide the information to the commission.
   Mr. Burke provided another contact within Mr. Ward's office as he is semi-retired. Mr. Burke noted that the change needs to be delineated as phase 1 and the term owner needs to be shifted to user to provide protection and clarity. Mr. Ventres noted that the contract was set up to eventually shift to the Homeowners' Association. The amendment cannot move forward until the owner signs off on it.

5. Discussion - Clean Water Ops Report–

   Mr. Abramczyk reviewed the 11 items outlined in the Sept 16, 2024, report.
   The UV system is now fully operational. Water penetrated the bulb due to the o-ring failure. There is a process to inspect the system weekly and recently Ms. Kneeland caught a cracked sleeve and replaced it before it became an issue.
   There was a transfer switch that did not work on the generator and the alarm did not go off during the recent power outage. The issues were addressed.
   Propane was delivered to ensure the tanks are filled and ready for any storm event.

The auto dialer system did not work and it was discovered there was a fault that needed to be addressed.
Fire extinguishers were reviewed and certified.
A heat sensor failed in the SBR building that needed to be bypassed.
The fire alarm system was in constant alarm and now in the process of being fixed.
There is an invoice issue that Mr. Abramczyk is in the process of disputing the hourly charge as it is outside the range he expected. Mr. Blaschik will provide contact information for other repair companies for the fire alarm system.
They are continuing to look at installing an internet services line, but the cost still remains to high. Mr. Blaschik suggested reaching out to Frontier who is running fiber throughout the East Haddam Village, and they may be able to install the fiber to the treatment plan and address the need for internet service.
There is a plugged valve in SBR 2 that must be manually closed which requires replacing. It requires physical inspection for the correct parts to be ordered. That is scheduled for later this month.
There were several calls for grinder pumps, and Mr. Abramczyk noted that it was yet another example of how hard it is to work with FR Mahony. There was a pump that had a broken transducer at the dance studio and it took quite a bit of conversation to get a repair person out and then have the repair person fix the issue. It was temporarily fixed for the night, and then was permanently fixed the next day.
FR Mahony was purchased and discovered an unpaid invoice, which Mr. Abramczyk noted is from over 3 years ago. The commission noted that it is not going to be paid as it was not submitted in a timely manner.

Mr. Ventres reviewed the budget and suggested that after 6 months, the commission should discuss if raising fees is warranted. Rates have not been raised since 2019.

He also noted that he talked with an environmental contact who had a 400,000 gallon failure due to a brewery that poured waste products from the brewing process down the drain. He will include information in the flyers about homeowners who are brewing their own beer that a bad batch should not be poured down the drain.

6. 23 Main Street – Society Hall Tavern/3 Air B&B Units/1 apartment

Mr. Ventres noted that the existing well ran dry so another well was dug. The owner will likely be changing the structure of the layout from a tavern on the ground floor to more apartments and less Air B&B options. Discussion was to charge 0.33 EDU per Airb-n-b, and now that there is a change to the design, the EDUs will change. Mr. Ventres will need to get clarity from the owner before EDUs can be determined.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pettinelli at 7:59. Second by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary