

**East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority  
Municipal Office Complex**

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Given there was no quorum of members, the meeting was turned into a working group and started at 7:03pm.

**2. Attendance**

**Members Present:** Robert Casner, Edward Blaschik, and Richard Pettinelli

**Members Absent:** John Russell, Chairman Andrew Lord, and Richard Fiala

**Other Present:** James Ventres, Zach Dutton – departed 7:24, and Patrick Burke (Banner Estates)

Note: Arthur Merrow resigned given his recent move to Maine.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes are held until the next meeting when there is a quorum present to review and provide a motion.

**4. Discussion**

**a. Clean Water Ops Report**

Mr. Dutton noted that the treatment plant is working as designed. The tank swap out is still moving forward, with no changes to the existing plans. There is enough of a flow to keep the organic microorganisms happy and working.

Mr. Dutton noted the financials were the only other topic to discuss. There were no questions as the report was very straightforward.

Mr. Blaschik noted that the invoice for 66 Main Street was not provided at the January meeting. Mr. Dutton will look into that.

Mr. Blaschik noted at the last meeting the payment cycle on the electric bill looked odd, he noted it looks good now.

There was a cable failure at 91 Main Street, Mr. Dutton noted that the cable was never placed in conduit upon initial install, which causes an issue over time. Mr. Ventres provided further details on what happened with that cable. It has been in the works for quite a bit, and it is a harder place to have work done due to inaccessibility.

Mr. Blaschik asked about the NIC invoice; Mr. Dutton noted that it was due to a computer system change over, and now there are no further issues to report on it. Mr. Dutton did not purchase a surge protector yet but will do that in the future.

Mr. Blaschik asked for a breakdown of the Lumberyard Road generator service report. Mr. Dutton will provide a further breakdown for reference.

There was discussion on 28 Ray Hill Road as there were questions on where that property is; 28 Ray Hill should be 28 Norwich Road. There was also discussion on where 29 Norwich Road is located; Mr. Ventres will review that.

Mr. Casner asked if there were any issues with the pumps that are out of the ordinary. Mr. Ventres noted that the town keeps reminding people of what are acceptable materials to flush into the system and what is not. This has resulted in less grinder issues overall. Mr. Ventres noted that he has seen only normal wear and tear issues.

Mr. Ventres noted that there are two man hole covers on Main Street and Norwich Road, but those are very large jobs to address. The Norwich Road one has been worked on and updated. The item being asked about is the air release valve and will/would cost about about \$20,000. Mr. Ventres has discussed with the engineer at DEEP and all have agreed that it is doing the job and so not to touch it; and to only fix the item if there is an issue.

Mr. Blaschik asked about the CMOM report, Mr. Dutton noted that all items have been addressed and closed out.

Mr. Ventres included the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Goodspeed and Grove Street water systems in the meeting materials for the group to review. There are no issues with the water quality; the report is a state requirement.

#### **b. Banner Septic System Repairs**

Mr. Burke introduced himself and let the WPCA members know that he is representing Banner Estates for its septic maintenance. He briefed the members that one of the 2 pumps had failed, and the system has been operating since late fall 2019 with only 1 pump. Mr. Ventres and Mr. Burke reviewed the system installed in 2005 installed that no needs repairs given its age and use. Mr. Burke provided two quotes, one from Finkeldey Septic and the other from Skip's Wastewater Systems. The quote from Skip's is much more detailed and outlines a number of changes needed. The Banner Estates is moving ahead with the work using Skip's. There is about a 2-3 week lead time on some of the equipment so work has not begun yet. The cost will be approximately \$25,000. The budget for the wastewater system is around \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually, but this is a major repair that needs to be done. Years ago the town and the developer set up an escrow account for system repairs – one is for pump outs (about \$10,000) and one is a repair fund (about \$30,000). Mr. Burke noted that the repair fund is going to need to be used to fund this repair; there is a requirement that the money must be replenished within 90 days unless the WPCA voted on extending the days. The funds that Mr. Burke would like to have \$20,000 from the escrow account and any additional funds needed would be pulled from the yearly wastewater account. Mr. Burke provided an update on how the monies would be

replenished. Mr. Ventres noted that the money is being held in a cash account, not held in a bond. Mr. Casner asked Mr. Ventres to provide some clarity as to what the purpose of the repair fund was to ensure that the work makes sense; Mr. Ventres provided further information around what the purpose was for the fund was.

Mr. Burke also noted one additional issue but it does not need to be dealt with now. There are supposed to be two generators in place to continue service the system if there is a power outage. Mr. Burke noted that there may not be 2 generators to meet this requirement.

Mr. Blashik noted that he would prefer to have a motion prior to the town providing the money. Mr. Pettinelli noted that with the system operating with only 1 pump, he is concerned about waiting for a quorum to vote on it given the risk.

Mr. Burke noted that while only a verbal approval was provided to Skip's, there is going to be a written contract. The members would like a real estimate provided as well as a written and signed contract. As soon as the estimate and contract is completed, Mr. Ventres will contact the WPCA members to schedule a special meeting to review the request.

## **5. Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon A. Goyette  
Recording Secretary