East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Special Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

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

3. Minutes

   4.a. Change "plan" to "plant"
   4.a. Change "Johnson Co." to "Johnson Controls"

   Motion by Mr. Fiala to approve the November 18, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

4. Discussion

   a. Clean Water Ops Report –

      Mr. Abramczyk has provided an update on the plant since the last meeting. The inline PH probe control box failed and, as approved at the last meeting, he ordered a part to fix it. In addition, there is an antiquated probe in the tank which must also be replaced as well. The antiquated probe will not work with the new part. Approval to replace the control box has been received at a prior meeting, but Mr. Abramczyk outlined the need to replace the probe. He reviewed the quote for it – it is about $2000. Mr. Ventres noted that it needs to be replaced to enable the plant to continue to gather data.

      A motion by Mr. Blaschik to approve the proposal and estimate to replace the probe. Seconded by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved.

      SBR decanter value replacement requires less work than anticipated. There is a product on order to replace that soon. That will now allow the plant to be able to properly decant from SBR1 to SBR2. Discussion ensued related to what components are still good and do not require replacement, which costs less overall. Mr. Abramczyk noted that they are not 100% sure that it will fix the problem; they cannot be 100% sure until they install it and then test it. Discussion ensued related to the plant expenditures and the requirement to continue to focus on routine maintenance while being fiscally responsible.

The ridge vent on building was torn off in a recent winds storm, and that has now been fixed.

The fire alarm system required additional work, which the Fire Marshall confirmed does not need to be of explosion proof materials (which is what the system is made of now). Due to that, maintenance can now be done to get the fire alarm working properly. He is asking for 2 quotes: 1) to make the system work again using whatever components that can be used (explosion proof or not) and 2) refresh the whole system with non-explosion proof components. He expects to receive the quotes prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Abramczyk provided recent monthly expenditures and noted they are all in line with utilities and general expenses. He also walked through the yearly grinder pump repair expenses at a high level and will share the spreadsheet with Mr. Ventres which provides the details on each of the grinder pump repairs.

b. Emergency Services – Sewer Services

Mr. Ventres provided an update on the emergency repairs that had to be made. He outlined where the failure happened. He showed where the effluent lines are and then where the drainage lines are. The issue started slowly with a call to Mr. Ventres that the pump station is not working. Then he received a call the next day that the pumps are working fine but the drainage is not working and there was a blockage in the line.

Excavation started the following Monday. Mr. Ventres outlined all the issues encountered upon digging. Excavation continued on Tuesday where a broken pipe was found. That was not the problem, as the pumps ran but no drainage was occurring, which means there was a blockage. The plant then found its flow decreasing as well. Mr. Ventres and Curtin Construction took an educated guess on what was occurring. They discovered the line was not buried deep enough due to ground water infiltration. After much more excavation, they found the clog and cleared that. All the lines were then fixed, the meter was removed and then they decided to let the glue cure overnight. They started up the plant on Friday morning and discovered drainage was still not flowing. The plant was receiving more flow, so several items were fixed, but not all of them were fixed. Additional excavation was conducted to see where the flow was being stopped. They ended up having to excavate the 2021 Town repair on Rte. 82, to check to see if that was flowing. They discovered that there were cracked pipes under the sideway. The system is now fully repaired, and it is going to cost $62,500. In addition, there needs to be clean outs installed to prevent this in the future. Mr. Ventres wants to set aside $7500 to install clean outs and then also wants to excavate Lumberyard Road to check the system there.

Mr. Ventres outlined there are funds available to pay for the emergency service. Budget season is coming up and the WPCA needs to ask for $12,000 to replace the roof on the 2nd building, $7,500 to create the clean out system and additional monies to excavate the rest of the system to ensure that it's fully mapped and in good working order. The roof is not currently leaking but it is an original roof.

Mr. Lord opened discussion around if fees should be increased. The last rate increase was several years ago, but Mr. Lord noted that it is not going to raise much additional funds to replace the $62,500 needed due to the emergency repair. Mr. Pettinelli noted that expenses are high for people right now. Mr. Lord agreed that people's expenses are higher and noted an increase would not yield a huge amount of monies. Mr. Venres suggested discussing rates at the May meeting and then there can be a Town Meeting to discuss in August. Unfortunately raising rates may have to occur.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lord at 7:53. Second by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Chronology of Events
Starting December 12, 2024
Sewer Main Breaks & Repairs East Haddam Village

December 12, 2024 – Thursday - Will Abramczyk – President – Clean Water Ops – (our contracting firm who manages**,** maintains and operates the Wastewater Treatment Facilities) notifies Jim Ventres Land Use Administrator that one of the two pumps at the pump station is failing. Pump repair service ordered for the next day. Location #1.

December 13, 2024 – Friday – Skips Wastewater Services determines that both pumps are operational and that there may be a clog in the line. The pump station tanks were pumped out to keep the Goodspeed Opera House and Gelston House operational. A confined space team, line camera, and pump out truck order for Monday. Curtin Construction notified of the problem and asked to be at the site on Monday morning.
***Contractors on site for 3 hours*.**

December 14 & 15, 2024 – Saturday and Sunday – Pump station tank was pumped down and hauled away to keep the Gelston House and the Goodspeed Opera House operational.

December 16, 2024 – Monday – Pumps turned on and wastewater was seen flowing out of the wall under the Pump Station. It was assumed there was a leak nearby and it was probably following the crushed stone around the Pump Station footing. The pump station tank pumped down, confined space team dropped into the tank with the camera. The camera could only go approximately fifteen feet. An opening of the line was discovered at the base of the tank.

Call You Dig was called in to locate the buried electrical line to the pump station. Electrical line ran very close to the area that needed to be excavated.

CT DEEP notice of the breakage.

Curtin Construction started excavation above the broken pipe only to find that the waste cement from the original pump station was poured over the piping system. Used the emergency management light tower and worked until 6 pm. Decided that a bigger machine / hammer was needed. At this time, we also realized that this line failure was not blocking the line and something else was wrong. The main treatment plant was only receiving a minimal amount of sewage. We suspected that somewhere between the pump station and the treatment plant there was a blockage. See location #2

***Contractors on site for 10 hours*.**

December 17, 2024 – Tuesday - Curtin Construction used a hydraulic hammer to break away up to two feet of cement. The pipe area was cleared to the point where we could see the break, but it was difficult to work in due to the sewage leaking back through the system. A pump truck was needed throughout the day to remove wastewater. Used the emergency management light system again.

Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

***Contractors on site for 9 hours*.**

December 18, 2024 – Wednesday - Curtin Construction excavated and exposed the main waste line that goes under Succor Brook. The line was supposed to be four and a half feet below the surface but was only thirty-four inches. We soon found out that when exposed to the surface the ground water came bubbling up at an extreme rate. That is why the line wasn't buried at the correct depth. We tried pumping the ground water out but eventually decided to trench the water away.

At this time, we cut into the main line to gain access for a jet system to clear the clog. Upon cutting several individuals were exposed to the twenty-foot geyser. The line was under extreme pressure. We were surprised with this much pressure that all of the grinder pumps in the Village did not go into alarm. The jet system was used by Skips Wastewater Services and at the base of the piping system under the stream was completely blocked with black sludge. The blockage was only partially cleared, and we decided to clear it from the "downstream side" of the sewage flow. See location #3.

***Contractors on site for 11 hours*.**

Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

The main line transitions from a four-inch line in Lumberyard Road to a six-inch line just before it dips under Succor Brook. The combination of reduced pressure and dropping eight feet lower than the rest of the system allowed organic matter to settle until there was total brockage. This is an engineering design flaw. The system should have remained at a straight line to prevent settling or the system should have been design with clean-outs so we can service the low point every five years. We will have to design a clean-out access. If the bridge is ever replaced, a straight pipe could be installed. It also didn't help that the sewage had an escape route allowing the heavier sludge to settle and the water go through the cracked line.

December 19, 2024 – Thursday – The plant received normal flows for the Village excluding what normally comes from the Goodspeed Opera House and the Gelston House. Curtin Construction excavated the wastewater line on the other side of the stream, and the access port was cut, and the low point was again jetted. Additional black sludge was pulled out. See #4. Both openings to the main line were patched.

Work then proceeded to repair the crack at the base of the pump station. The entire pipe was removed along with the in-line meter that was not functioning and blocked the camera previously. Line was allowed to cure overnight.

Contractors on site for 10 hours.

Pump Station tanks pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

December 20, 2024 – Friday. Pump Station was partially filled so system was tested with both pumps running. After a few minutes, the wastewater was again flowing under the Pump Station. Curtin Construction re-excavated the site to see if any additional leaks could be found. Knowing the temperatures were going to drop extremely over the weekend and the beginning of the week, we decided to go back the day after Christmas. The camera was ordered again.

Contractors on site for 7 hours.

Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

December 21 – 25, 2024 Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

December 26, 2024 – Thursday - The confined space team ran the camera through the piping but found no obvious leaks. The area on the other side of the manhole next to the Pump Station was excavated to see if another leak could be found. See #5. While excavating that side of the line we found a shut off valve that separated the Pump Station from the main line. The shutoff valve was not on the construction plans or the As-Builts.
No leaks were found around the excavated area. We decided that we needed the camera again to try and locate the leak. It was then determined that the flow under the Pump Station was not from the crushed footing stones but from the road drainage system. Curtin Construction removed the brush and exposed the ancient clay piping. See blue lines on the plan. The Pump Station was designed to be built over the town's existing drainage system.

Contractors on site for 8 hours.

Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning.

December 27, 2024 – Friday – The Pump Station was turned on and after a few minutes wastewater was pouring out of the drainage system under the Pump Station. We followed the basins to the top of the hill at 12 & 14 Norwich Road. The camera was installed into the drainage pipe and about five feet under the road the sewage was pouring out. See #6.

This is the same area that was damaged by the CT DOT two decades ago and repaired again by the Town of East Haddam in 2021. We suspected that the high pressure may have broken the seals of the compression fittings of the 2021 repair.

Contractors on site for 8 hours.

Pump Station tank pumped out to keep the Gelston House functioning. December 27 – 31st. The Gelston House and the Goodspeed Opera House closed for the month after that.

Working on the State Highway takes CT DOT Permits, Traffic Control, ordering hot patch for the State Highway, and coordination with the bridge traffic control. We decided to return on Tuesday January 7, 2025 to allow everything to fall in place.

January 7, 2025 – Tuesday – Excavation started at 8:30 am. Traffic control was provided by the Colchester Police Department and radios were provided by the bridge construction traffic control so the alternating traffic flowed without issues.

The area towards the center of the road suspected of leaking was found to be still functioning. With further excavation toward the sidewalk, it was determined the cement sidewalk would have to be cut to allow proper access. Once excavated, it was determined that the original damage to the pipe twenty years ago was more extensive. The pipe had a crack along the top of about four feet. Under normal pressure, the pipe functioned properly. Once the main pipe blockage occurred under Succor Brook, the pipe expanded and allowed sewage to escape. That also allowed debris to collect in the crack, creating a permanent opening. The only time the pipe would fail was when the two pump station pumps were activated. The pumps created greater pressure, and the path of least resistance was through this opening.

Repairing the pipe required the removal of two sections of CT DOT drainage piping before the wastewater piping was reached. All of this took considerable time.

The emergency management light tower was used again.

A cold patch was applied, and the road was reopened a little after 6:00 pm.

Contractors on site for 10 hours.

January 8, 2025 – Wednesday - Curtin Construction and East Haddam Public Works worked together to remove the cold patch in Route 82 and hot patch was applied. East Haddam & Colchester Police provided traffic control. Work was completed by around 11 am.

Billings

Curtin Construction	**12/16/24 – 12/27/24**	**$19,828.49**
Curtin Construction	**1/7/25 – 1/8/25**	**$3,990.46**
Skips Wastewater Services	**12/13/24 – 12/30/24**	**$28,651.00**
A + Pumps	**12/13/24 – 12/30/24 $**	**$4,632.00**
Colchester Police Department	**1/7/25 – 1/8/25**	**$2,400.00**
CT DOT Inspection / Permit Charge	**1/7/2025**	**$291.96**
Cold Patch Adelman S & G	**1/7/25**	**$450.80**
Hot Patch Lee & Sons	**1/8/25**	**$1,375.00**
Next Spring / Summer Pavement & Sidewalk Replacement		**???**
Total		**$61,619.71**

3231

Pump Station
Serve Gelston House + GSOH

Sewer lines - yellow

Drainage/stormwater Blue

2024/2025 Repair

#1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6

FOR CONTINUATION SEE SHEET 1

DOCK ROAD PUMP STATION, GRAVITY SEWER AND FORCE MAIN. SEE SITE PLAN SHEET 19

PROPOSED UTILITY EASEMENT

EDGE OF BROOK

BROOK

SUCCOR

FOOT BRIDGE

ACCESS TO FOOT BRIDGE MUST BE MAINTAINED DURING CONSTRUCTION

DOCK ROAD

GRAVITY SEWER @ S=0.007

GRAVITY SEWER @ S=0.002

PROPOSED 20' UTILITY EASEMENT

LIMIT OF FEDERAL WETLAND (TYP)

GRAVEL & STONE

LUMBERYARD ROAD

LIMIT OF STATE AND FEDARAL WETLAND

WILLIAMS CHEVROLET # 24

SATELITE DISH

BIT.

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE

GELSTON HOUSE # 8

ROCK

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF DUCTILE IRON FIRE LINE

PUMP HSE. FRAMED

CONNECTICUT RIVER

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE #6

WILLIAMS

APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF 100 YEAR FLOOD

OPERA HOUSE GOODSPEED

POULOS #10

TERMINAL FLUSHING CONNECTION

MAIN STREET

BRICK

EDGE OF RIVER (TYP)

SCHLEIDT

12

EXISTING BORING (TYP)

STONE FLAG

TOWN HALL #7

9

EDGE OF EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY (TYP)

14

CAVERLY

FLG. ST.

MULTIPLE SERVICE CONNECTION

BRIDGE HOUSE

DI ERRICO

2

4

WOOD

DIRT

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

#1 TOWN GARAGE ANNEX

#15

PROPOSED TERMINAL FLUSHING CONNECTION

STONE

SHED

BENCHMARK CGS DISK # 2424 ELEV.=33.179

GRINDER PUMP

ALARM BOX

STATE POLICE

ZANIEWSKI

BARN

EDGE OF EXISTING PAVEMENT (TYP)

MAIN STREET

EXISTING PROPERTY LINE (TYP)

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE

KLINCK

FOR CONTINUATION SEE SHEET 5

MATCH LINE - SEE PART PLAN ABOVE

PLAN
SCALE 1"=40'

RECORD DRAWING

MATCH LINE - SEE PLAN BELOW

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

KLINCK

FLUSHING CONNECTION

F.F.=78.31

BROOM ROAD

CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

F.F.=85.78

PART PLAN
SCALE 1"=40'
BUILT 1997

MAIN STREET (WEST TO)
LUMBERYARD ROAD- GELSTON HOUSE
CONNECTIONS TO TOWN PROPERTIES
CONNECTION TO KLINCK HOUSE- BROOM ROAD
CONNECTION TO BLDG. #9 & 15 MAIN STREET
DOCK ROAD- 8" PVC GRAVITY LINE

EXISTING AND PROPOSED CENTERLINE (TYP)

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF EXISTING 30" VCP STORM DRAIN

TERMINAL FLUSHING CONNECTION

4.5' MINIMUM COVER (TYP)

164.3' OF 4" PVC SEWER

NO ROCK DETECTED BY GPR IN THIS AREA

DATUM ELEV. 5.00

EXISTING AND PROPOSED CENTERLINE GRADE (TYP)

PROPOSED SEWER CENTERLINE STATION (TYP)

15.9 19.0 22.4 23.7 23.8

0+00 1+00 1+55

PROFILE
SCALE 1"=40' HORIZ
1"=4' VERT

"AS BUILT DRAWINGS"

STATE OF CONNECTICUT BRUCE J. KIRKPATRICK 17178 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

40 0 20 40 80 160
SCALE 1"=40'

REV. NO.	DATE	DRWN	CHKD	REMARKS
1	5/22/95	DRM	BJK	INCORPORATE REVIEW COMMENTS
2	9/18/95	DRM	BJK	REVISED FOR REBID

DESIGNED BY: DRM
DRAWN BY: DRM
SHEET CHK'D BY: TPH
CROSS CHK'D BY: BJK
APPROVED BY: BJK
DATE: JANUARY 12, 1995

CAMP DRESSER & McKEE INC.
241 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
environmental engineers, scientists, planners, & management consultants
CDM

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

PLAN & PROFILE

PROJECT NO. 2885-001

SHEET NO. 7

3231

3231

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