East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex
Special Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2025

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

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

3. Minutes

Motion by Mr. Blaschik to approve the March 17, 2025 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr.Fiala and unanimously approved. Mr. Casner abstained.

4. Discussion

a. Clean Water Ops Report –

Mr. Abramcyzk provided an overview on a number of items.

A. The influent pH probe was completed as discussed in prior meetings.
B. The SBR actuator valve replacement was received but was the wrong device. The switch over from SBR1 to SBR2 did not occur as per the standard plan due to this wrong device.
C. Regarding the fire alarm system, it has been difficult to get quotes. One of the vendors is Johnson Controls, which had that 1 invoice that was being contested due to egregious hourly rates. Mr. Abramczyk noted he was able to get quotes from 2 vendors, of which Johnson Controls is one of them. He outlined that going with Johnson Controls would be the cheaper option and they are also willing to waive the entire contested invoice.
D. For UV, they are in good shape in this area.
E. For propane delivery, both tanks are topped off in preparation for hurricane season.

For the effluent pH probe, the pH is not reading correctly and would make us look out of compliance even when we are not. The problem is that the probe needs to be replaced and would be tied into an old system, so there are options to replace both the probe and the controller. *Note: the report denotes it as influent data, but it is effluent data.* The probe can be replaced only; it does not require any additional equipment purchase to be addressed.

A motion by Mr. Blaschik to approve using Johnson Controls for the fire alarm system, for $5213.00, and to purchase the effluent pH probe from Knapp Engineering for $2730.94. Seconded by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

F. Mr. Abramczyk provided an explanation on the billing error which showed up on the invoice related to I-84. It is correct even though the invoice verbiage references I-84.
CT DEEP site visit occurred on May 29, and there were no issues raised. Mr. Abramczyk noted that DEEP is now filling the vacancies that occurred during Covid and noted that there are other higher priority areas that the DEEP is dealing with, outside of East Haddam's plant. There were a few grinder pump repairs that have been handled; with one being reviewed now. Expenditures April through June are provided in the hand out. Mr. Ventres outlined that lab fees were in the wrong spot, and Mr. Abramczyk has corrected that.
Mr. Casner asked about flow, and Mr. Abramczyk noted that we are nowhere near peak flow which is approved for 45K gallons. We are averaging around 12K gallons. Flows are increasing but it's been a cool summer, so the flow has been lower overall. It gets higher when the weather is warmer. There is plenty of capacity to handle an increase in the flow. The permit has been submitted 6 months prior to the expiration date but no information has been provided yet back. He mentioned this outstanding permit to the DEEP representative that visited on May 29. Mr. Lord noted that we need to pay attention to when the new permit is provided to ensure that the parameters we are held to are not to a higher standard. Mr. Abramczyk noted that the numbers put out by the plant are so far below the permit limits, that there is nothing to call attention to the system needing to have more oversight.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Ventres provided an update on the budget. The Finance Director went through the audits and they match her numbers. We used 112% of the budget, due to the $62,000 expenditure from the large break issue that occurred. Realistically the WPCA is $30K over due to the large break. The Finance Director also found another $65K in the account that was not spent from the prior year.
Mr. Ventres noted there will be around $75K available for normal bills to be paid, plus an additional $34K available for any issues that come up, given all the monies from fees collected, the capital provided by the Board of Finance and the monies discovered by the Finance Director during the audit.
Mr. Ventres provided this overview to help the WPCA have the discussion around if the fees should be raised. There is around $46K in reserve not including all July monies coming in from fees. Discussion ensued related to the fact that even though there was a very large issue that had to be paid for, there is still monies available to pay for other unknown issues. The collections come in from the townspeople at a 100% rate. There was consensus that there is no need to raise rates at this time. Discussion on raising the rates should be added to the January 2026 agenda, to determine if there is a need to collect more monies from residents then.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pettinelli at 7:44. Second by Mr.Blaschik and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary