

PLYMOUTH, CT
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Linda Longprade
TOWN CLERK



**TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
80 MAIN STREET
TERRYVILLE, CT 06786**

The Public Hearing of the Water Pollution Control Authority was held on Monday June 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the training room of the facility at 35 Canal Street, Pequabuck, CT. Board members Andrews, Maloney, Armbruster, Giancesini, Murphy and Carey were in attendance. Also in attendance were Plant Manager Partick, Assistant Plant Manager Wells, Administrative Assistant Dell'Aera, and Council Liaison Zagurski.

Chairman Andrews opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM. The legal notice for the 2026/2027 WPCA proposed Budget published in the Waterbury Republican newspaper and filed with the Plymouth Town Clerk on June 2, 2026, was read aloud by Chairman Andrews.

Chairman Andrews then gave a summary of the \$2,234,021.75 proposed FY 2026/2027 budget which is a 5.98 percent increase from the FY 2025/2026 budget and includes the twenty-five dollar (\$25) increase in the sewer use fee to \$530.00 per unit effective with the October 1, 2026, billing cycle. Chairman Andrews noted that we have reviewed the budget over the previous two meetings and the increases are primarily due to the rising cost of utilities, particularly the disposal of sludge increases, normal price increases for services and merchandise, along with previously contracted employee cost of living increases. Chairman Andrews also commended the plant management, noting that Plant Manager Patrick has worked hard at keeping the cost as low as possible. Chairman Andrews also commented, we will continue to split the user fees semi-annually to help with the affordability for the residents of the town. Chairman Andrews reviewed all other proposed WPCA Fees for 2026/2027 noting no additional increases are proposed for: sewer connection fee, sewer connection /disconnection / reconnection /line repair, permit fees : increase /decrease of a sewer lateral, septic dump fee, recreational vehicle dumping fee (Plymouth residents only), sewer discharge permit application (industrial), all existing and renewals discharge application fee, fats, oils, and grease (FOG) permit application and discharge limits and fees into the treatment facility (BOD/ SS/ Nitrogen/ Remediated Ground Water/ Temporary Discharge)

At this point Chairman Andrews asked for questions or comments from the WPCA members. Mr. Murphy questioned if it is worth discussing raising the connection fee at this time. Mr. Armbruster commented that we have in past had so few connections that it was kept at this price as an incentive to hook up to sewer. Mr. Andrews commented it would be worthy of a deeper discussion, and we could do more homework on connections fees for surrounding towns.

Chairman Andrews asked for questions or comments from the public regarding the proposed budget. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville stated that we should be looking at the towns with similar population if they are at \$3000 for connection fees then we should go up because the homeowners have already been paying in town. Everything else is jumping up, gas, utilities and she doesn't want everyone to feel like they just pay pay pay. And if we were able to offset the costs by charging more to connections maybe it would change people's train of thought. Mr. Murphy replied that on that regard we have costs that are out of our control, like the sludge disposal. It is unfortunate that everything is going up, especially since covid. Mr. Patrick also wanted to add that all connection fees are put into the capital account to be used for emergencies. In the past we have only had one or two connections a year and the fee is not a consistent stream

of revenue. Melanie added they are also trying to get rid of the senior center and the people are sick of it. Mr. Gianesini also noted looking at the budget analysis that a good amount of the transfers were to the chemicals account, that is a result of state and federal regulations for what we discharge, we could go year after year and never increase it (the user fee) but the money would have to come from somewhere. Mr. Maloney also noted there has been 25% (U.S. inflation rate) inflation over the last 5 years. Mr. Carey added as a possibility if the budget goes up 5% then we could have the connection fee (fees) go up 5%. Mr. Zagurski stated that we will need that capital money at one point because the infrastructure of the town is old and will need to be fixed. Mr. Murphy also commented God forbid the system ever did go down, he feels the commission here is making wise decisions to make increases when necessary to protect the public from the state coming in and taking over. A brief discussion ensued regarding charging a separate connection fee for residential and commercial. There was also discussion regarding the high cost of expanding the sewers in town. The consensus was to discuss the connection fee in more depth at future meetings.

Hearing no additional comments, Chairman Andrews called the public hearing to close at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather Dell'Aera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'H' and a long, sweeping tail.

Heather Dell'Aera
Recording Secretary