

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**Regular In Person Meeting  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**5:00 PM**

**Water Pollution Control Facility  
31 Wauregan Road, Killingly CT**

**MINUTES**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK, KILLINGLY, CT  
2023 DEC 27 PM 4:41  
Elizabeth M. Wilson

1. Roll Call - Chair, Patrick McLaughlin opened the Public Hearing at 5:10 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Brian Briere  
Joseph Higgins  
Patrick McLaughlin  
Andrew Danna was absent with notice.

**Staff Present:**

David Capacchione, Director of Engineering and Facilities  
Benjamin Gilmore, Plant Superintendent

**Also Present:**

Michelle Murphy, Town Council Liaison  
Ed Grandelski, Alternate Town Council Liaison  
John LaBelle  
J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary

2. Citizen Participation (on items not subject to public hearing)
  - Ed Grandelski asked for an update on the situation with power outages, back-ups and generators at the Lake, due to the recent heavy rain storm.

Ben Gilmore explained that the South Shore Pump Station lost power from about 9 a.m. on Monday to last night about 9:30 p.m. He explained that there were situations involving downed trees which prevented them from getting to the pump stations (especially #4). After they started leaving, the alarm system showed that one of the stations was acting up. One of the pumps was plugged and by the time the problem was fixed, some residents at low points, with finished basements, had issues. At this point, he said that there are six homes that Serve Pro and Enviro Care have gone to at the Town's expense. Mr. Gilmore visited homes of neighbors and those that were home, did not have any issues. He explained that they did their best with what they had. Station deficiencies include old controls, one of the pumps was down (they are trying to replace it through Delta), a VFD at another station was acting up (they are looking into the cost), McVac is coming on Friday to make sure there are no plugged pumps and to get that on a schedule. He explained that 90 percent of it was things that were out of their hands.

Mr. Capacchione explained that there was a meeting this morning and Town Manager, Mary Calorio has convinced Eversource to add the pump stations around the Lake to a higher priority on the list of critical facilities. Mr. Capacchione explained that the Town is looking into possibly either purchasing or renting additional generators through Craig Porter (a local company). They are taking steps to correct it, so that it doesn't happen again.

Mr. McLaughlin commented that, due to potential problems involving finished basements, maybe there should be some kind of sign-off recognizing liability, not putting all the onus on the Town/pump stations. Discussion ensued. It is the Town's infrastructure. Ms. Murphy commented about contingency plans being in place. Mr. Capacchione explained that it was a host of unforeseen circumstances that were beyond our control.

- John LaBelle, Island Road, commended the Town's Staff for their efforts in rectifying the situation and he asked about backflow preventors.

There was discussion. Mr. Capacchione indicated the four pump stations on the map and explained about gravity going to the force mains and to the pump stations and he explained about pressure. Mr. Briere explained that you are better off not to have backflow preventers.

Mr. Grandelski explained that sewer easements will be looked into to get an alternate access route. Discussion continued.

### 3. Town Council Liaison Participation

Michelle Murphy reported on recent actions/discussions of the Town Council.

- Assessments
- Ballouville Mill Fire
- Proposed developments on Colonial Drive and Ware Road/Pineville Road

### 4. Adoption of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023

Motion was made by Joseph Higgins to adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2023, as presented.

Second by Brian Briere. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

### 5. Finance Report

- a. Monthly Finance Report (included in packets to Authority Members).  
David Capacchione explained that everything is tracking as expected at this point. The South Shore situation should go through the insurance.

### 6. Report of Plant Superintendent

Ben Gilmore reported and reviewed the November 2023 Monthly Report (included in packets to Authority Members):

- Plant ran well last month. Flows were a little lower.
- No violations/major issues.
- They have daily morning meetings and monthly meetings.



- He obtained a budgetary number from Action Scales of \$35,000 per setup which is a lot more than he expected. It would need to go through the sealed bid process. He will continue to research other options. He explained that a scale for each bay is needed to avoid exceedance with DOT.
- Regarding a second, back-up sludge thickener, Mr. Gilmore explained that a couple companies visited the Plante. He explained about two options: continue with what we have – another gravity belt thickener (2020 price from Wright Pierce \$174,000); or a rotary drum thickener (from BDP \$170,000). There was discussion.

Mr. Capacchione explained that there are currently two gravity belt thickeners and it is time to replace the old one (25 years old). Do we replace it with another gravity belt thickener or do we explore a rotary drum thickener (newer technology) which would also involve costs to switch over electronics, controls/plumbing (retrofit). Mr. Gilmore explained that the overall cost would be \$246,000 (\$250,000 was budgeted for the year), but he is still researching. Mr. Capacchione explained that it is a viable option, but they need to determine the best way to go. It needs to be done. He will keep the Authority informed as it will need to go out to bid.

Mr. Gilmore spoke about advantages with the rotary drum thickener. Discussion continued. Mr. Capacchione stated that a pilot test would be his preference.

- Mr. Gilmore explained that he has also researched the blowers (\$565,000 in the budget for a blower upgrade). The current ones are approximately eleven years old. He explained that they are running as low as it can go (1500). Cycling was discussed. DO is over five now which he said is a problem. Mr. Gilmore explained about some of the options he has researched (some go lower than 1500 and some go higher which would help in the summer).
- Regarding e-coli testing, Mr. Gilmore explained that using the local lab is far less costly than doing it in-house. \$1,452 per year vs. \$9,000 plus.
- Joe Couture is working on the ventilation issue discussed last month.

#### 7. Frito-Lay Representation

Mr. Capacchione reported for Heather Belanger that there were no operational issues at the Facility.

#### 8. Unfinished Business

##### a. Administration Building HVAC Project

Mr. Capacchione reported:

- The project is progressing. There was a delay with the duct heaters, but they are working on it now. He provided a proposed change order (Nutmeg Companies, Inc. - \$23,444.19) to insulate the existing ductwork above the ceilings inside the building that was installed at the time the system was installed. He explained that it has never been insulated. He feels that it would be worthwhile to explore it as he feels you would save some efficiencies, the unit would run better, there would be less problems with condensation/potential mold in the ceiling tiles. This could be done later, but would be easier to do it now, but it would cost more to do it now (prevailing wage). There is enough money in

Capital to do it. He explained what is currently insulated. There was discussion. Agreement was expressed by Authority Members to wait.

b. North River Lane to Maple Street Sewer Line

Mr. Capacchione reported that the bid opening is set for January 9, 2024. Due to rain, the site walk scheduled on Monday was postponed to a week before the bid opening. There haven't been any requests for information. There was one inquiry. There was discussion. Mr. Capacchione will keep the Authority Members informed.

c. Reynolds Street Improvement Project

Mr. Capacchione reported:

- Sewer Main is in.
- Laterals are connected.
- Box Culvert is in.
- Creative plumbing techniques were found to have been used in that area.
- MS4 improvements to be done in the spring. He explained that they are infiltrating the stormwater that runs down Reynolds Street into the Park (galleys with an overflow to the box culvert). Soil tests indicate that they can infiltrate a lot of water.

9. New Business

a. Laurel Point Pump Station

Mr. Capacchione explained that NTE will not be upgrading the Laurel Point Pump Station as was thought. He is working on putting out an RFP for and evaluation of the pump station to get an overall view of everything that needs to be done, because of the age. It could be done as a phased approach. No capacity change at this point, but flow will be looked at.

Mr. Grandelski noted that the Attorney is looking into this to be sure that NTE, and any successor entity, is out of the picture.

b. Continuation of I & I study

Mr. Capacchione explained that the last I & I study had information for continuing studies as part of Wright-Pierce's proposal. It was written up that it would continue with the same firm. He is waiting on numbers from Wright-Pierce to go with the next phase of that study. The immediate corrective actions were to be implemented in September 2023, they are working on them and expect to finish those in the spring. The Highway Department is installing the manhole covers. There was discussion regarding access which is over the existing sewer easements. Some sites will require material to be brought in to fill to have a good base. A mower (small bush hog with a 4-foot deck) had been purchased by the WPCA and the Highway Department mows and maintains the easements. The mower is also used at the transfer station.

10. Correspondence

E-mail from Donald St. Onge (dated December 20, 2023) regarding the South Shore Pump Station (included in packets to Authority Members).

11. Other – None.

12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Joseph Higgins to adjourn at 6:01 p.m.  
Second by Brian Briere. No discussion.  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary