

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**Regular In-Person Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
5:00 PM
Water Pollution Control Facility
31 Wauregan Road, Killingly CT**

MINUTES

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK, KILLINGLY, CT
2023 MAY 22 AM 8:15
Elizabeth M. Wilson

1. Roll Call - Chair, Patrick McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

David Capacchione, Director of Engineering and Facilities
Joe Couture, WPCF Assistant Plant Superintendent

Also Present:

Ed Grandelski, Alternate Town Council Liaison
Heather Belanger, Frito-Lay
J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary

2. Citizen Participation (on items not subject to public hearing) – None.
3. Town Council Liaison Participation
Ed Grandelski reported:
 - Town Budget failed and the BOE Budget passed. There was 8.4 percent voter participation.
 - One proposed Constabulary position was eliminated from the Budget (\$67,000),
 - Next vote on Tuesday, May 23rd.

4. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023

Motion was made by Joseph Higgins to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2023.

Second by Donald Aubrey. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

5. Finance Report

- a. Monthly Finance Report

David Capacchione provided copies of the monthly Finance Report (dated April 30, 2023) and he reported that nothing is tracking out of the ordinary, at this point.

There was discussion:

- Mr. Higgins asked about the Total Revenue Variance (-\$931,734). Mr. Capacchione explained that all of the billing has not come in yet and we are halfway through the year.

6. Report of Plant Superintendent

Joe Couture reported:

- Equipment Failure – As of May 1st, they were back online (centrifuge).
Operational Events – Shipped sludge out.
Getting into mark-out season.
Operational summary – He stated that they did 53 extra loads (liquids) for those three weeks.
- Nitrogen/Phosphorus went up a little, but now that the weather is warmer, they are able to control the growth of the nitrifiers. So, those numbers should start dropping.
- Approximately 2,000 gallons of septage was received.

There was discussion regarding the centrifuges. Mr. Higgins asked if we would be getting a report. Mr. Capacchione explained that the overheating was likely caused by one lug that was welded (from the electricity flowing through it) and two that were loose (which they feel was caused by expansion and contraction from the heat generated by the voltage flowing through it). It is difficult to determine what caused that to happen. Chris Abell, Wright-Pierce, suggested getting an infrared meter to monitor it (email dated May 5, 2023). The unit was purchased. Mr. Couture explained that they plan to monitor it quarterly and, if nothing is out of the ordinary, they will go to semi-annual, then, possibly annually.

There was discussion regarding costs and insurance reimbursement. Mr. Capacchione explained that invoices are submitted as they are received (they are approximately \$70,000 at this time, but all of the bills have not come in yet), but they are still investigating and Mr. Capacchione suspects that they are going to try to subrogate the claim, but he does not know how successful they will be. Discussion continued regarding the difficulty in determining the cause.

Mr. Higgins asked, going forward, that Mr. Couture to specify the equipment under Operational Report, Regulatory Events, Equipment Failure.

7. Frito-Lay Representation

Heather Belanger stated that there were no issues to report at the Facility.

8. Unfinished Business

- a. Administration Building HVAC Project
David Capacchione reported that they are still doing shop drawing review. They looked at the roof with the roofing contractor, but no work has begun.
- b. I Park Pump Station
Joe Couture reported that all of the parts have now been received and they are ready to begin work (in-house).
- c. North River Lane to Maple Street Sewer Line
David Capacchione asked the Authority Members what their thoughts are about proceeding with a re-lining project for that section. The camera work indicated that it would be a good candidate for re-lining. Photos were included in last month's packet. This was not on the I&I list.
Consensus to proceed. Mr. Capacchione will prepare an RFD.
- d. Reynolds Street Improvement Project
David Capacchione stated that he hopes to have it out to bid by the end of the month.

e. Plant Staffing

David Capacchione explained that they have expanded the canvassing by including the *Boston Globe*, *Hartford Current*, *Providence Journal*, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, various websites and the Connecticut website, but have had zero responses. He stated that other communities are also advertising for Class 4 Operators and are also not having any success.

Mr. Higgins said that he had recommended some professional organizations and he suggested that these be revisited. Mr. Capacchione stated that they can do that.

There was discussion and there was agreement expressed among Authority Members that the salary be listed. Mr. Capacchione will revisit this with the Town Manager.

There was discussion and there was agreement expressed among Authority Members regarding that it should be made clear that it is a Department Head position reporting to the Town Manager, which elevates the position.

Mr. Couture and Mr. Capacchione explained that they are short three positions in all and that they are also struggling to find Operators. They are working with Ellis Tech's Workshare Program to try to cultivate some interest. One of the interested students remembers attending Arlene Gauthier's "The World Is Our Classroom" program where she would bring her students on a field trip to tour the Facility.

f. Sewer Permit and Entrance Fee Discussion

Mr. Capacchione stated that he does not have anything new to report at this time.

9. New Business

a. Rate Bill / Tax Warrant

Motion was made by Brian Briere to approve the Rate Bill / Tax Warrant.

Second by Joseph Higgins.

Discussion:

Mr. Aubrey asked that the time period be clarified. Mr. Higgins asked that it also be clarified how long these rates have been in place.

There was a consensus for Mr. Capacchione to check with the Revenue Collector regarding whether more clarifying language (per year) can be added to Single-Family Residence and Multi-Family Unit. He will, then, forward it to Mr. McLaughlin for signature.

Mr. Capacchione will provide the information regarding how long these rates have been in place.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

There was discussion regarding potential legislation regarding not being able place a lien for unpaid sewer use fees on a residential property until the amount reaches \$4,000.

10. Correspondence – None.

11. Other – None.

12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Joseph Higgins to adjourn at 5:49 p.m.

Second by Donald Aubrey. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault

Recording Secretary