

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
Town of East Haddam**

**Regular Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Andrew Lord called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE:

Present: Andrew Lord, Ed Blaschik, Richard Fiala, Arthur Merrow

Absent: John Russell, Robert Casner, Richard Pettinelli

Others present: James Ventres, Grant Weaver, and 4 members of the public

3. MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

4. APPOINTMENTS:

A motion was made by Richard Fiala to reappoint Arthur Merrow to the WPCA, second by Edward Blaschik, motion carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION:

A) Water Planet Report

Mr. Weaver presented the Water Planet Company Report number 124, dated March 1, 2016. The Authority discussed the budget and the report.

Mr. Lord stated it appeared that the maintenance expenditures have come back down to where they should be. Mr. Weaver stated the gas and electric may come back up.

Mr. Lord asked if at the end of the year, the expenditures are \$30,000 over, if that is the Authority's cost. Mr. Weaver responded affirmatively. Mr. Weaver stated that the gas and electric cost is shared between the Authority and Water Planet Company.

Mr. Blaschik believed the Authority needs to get a handle on the grinder pump repairs. Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance expenses. Mr. Merrow asked if the company reports any type of analysis when the grinder pumps go as to what was wrong.

Mr. Weaver responded there is not unless there is something very obvious. Mr. Blaschik stated on January 28, one of the grinder pumps just stopped working. They came with a brand new pump. He stated this was in the library and music studio, so it has very little usage. Mr. Weaver suggested he may have a person with some history who could come talk to the Authority about what breaks down in the units.

The Authority asked about the bioscience line item. Mr. Weaver stated he will check into this, as this may be his cost.

B) Budget:

Mr. Ventres briefly reviewed the budget. The \$68,212.80 is what we have right now. Mr. Lord asked if the charges for services were the user fees. Mr. Ventres stated that was payments. Mr. Lord asked the insurance proceeds. Mr. Ventres stated this was the State's insurance check for the damaged sewer line during the bridge project from the CT DOT.

Mr. Lord asked about the total expenses. He noted they were at a \$2,000 deficit. Mr. Ventres stated this was because they decided to paint the building, and the item went over budget.

Mr. Ventres distributed the Operation and Maintenance financial report. He reviewed each line. Mr. Merrow asked about the top and why the variance is not the difference between the first and second columns. Mr. Ventres explained that this was done by the month.

Mr. Ventres stated that the next 8 month period is a \$14,000, rather than \$16,000. He suggested the Authority review this in June, and consider holding another public hearing for the rates. He stated they are putting nothing toward the capital improvements.

It was noted that the equipment is now 20 years old.

Mr. Ventres believed they need to hold discussions with the CT DEP regarding the \$5,000 expense of calibrating the meter every year. Mr. Blaschik stated they have 10 years of history on that meter. Mr. Lord stated he might be able to understand it if they even were at 75-80% of their design flow. Mr. Blaschik stated with 10 years of history, there is evidence that we have historically been well below the norm.

Mr. Lord asked for input on the budget. He asked if the members wanted to see it streamlined, if they want to see it every meeting, etc. Mr. Merrow stated it took a long time to get this version, although he believed it would be helpful to see the year-to-date on the monthly budget lines.

It was decided that Mr. Ventres' breakdown is also very helpful. Mr. Blaschik stated the budget breakdown should have a date on it.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

**Motion by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Merrow to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Pattavina