

East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority

Municipal Office Complex
Tuesday, December 4, 2018
Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Lord called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman, Andrew Lord, Edward Blaschik, Robert Casner, and Richard Pettinelli

Absent: Vice Chairman, Arthur Merrow, John Russell, and Richard Fiala

Others present: James Ventres and Grant Weaver (Clean Water Ops)

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Blaschik, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli, and unanimously passed to approve the October 2, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

4. 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

A discussion was had to schedule meetings from January to May and then alternate the remaining months.

Meetings will be held during the following months: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, and November, on Mondays, as scheduled.

A motion was made by Mr. Casner, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli, and unanimously passed to approve the 2019 meeting schedule.

5. DISCUSSION

A. Clean Water Ops

The maintenance account is currently \$9,008.15 over budget. The repairs needed at the Dock Road pump station caused most of the deficient. The repairs totaled \$8,700. As the service provider, Mr. Weaver is going to write a letter to the Town of East Haddam's insurance provider in order to try to receive a reimbursement for some of this money needed for the repairs. The Utilities account is \$1166.75 under budget.

The invoices for the work provided by F.R. Mahony & Associates Inc. were reviewed.

Last month, the propane charge was, \$1.999 a gallon (instead of \$3.50 during the previous months). Mr. Blaschik suggested Osterman Propane is cheaper. Mr. Ventres and Mr. Blaschik are going to speak with Osterman Propane.

Mr. Pettinelli asked if the pump that corresponds to Invoice Number: SE16848-IN was worth saving. The invoice was for \$1,366.17. Mr. Weaver stated a new pump could cost over \$3,000, so in this case, it was worth saving.

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has sent an email regarding the new draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The email was received before the Thanksgiving holiday with instructions to review the permit in seven days. The town has since applied for an extension. Mr. Casner asked if there is enough time to review the draft permit. Mr. Lord stated they could ask for another extension. Mr. Lord stated the changes in the new permit could introduce an additional \$20,000 in costs.

Mr. Weaver stated there are three key issues with the proposed permit.

1) Composite sample vs. grab sample

Mr. Weaver stated a composite sample requires a refrigerated machine, which would retain the sewage. The machine would pump water into the refrigerated tank and then take time-weighted samples on a regular basis. The machine would cost \$7,500.

The committee discussed the challenges this change in the permit could create.

They stated the town of East Haddam's treatment center is different than other treatment centers in that they use a batch system, which holds two days worth of flow as opposed to a stream.

Mr. Pettinelli said East Haddam only services restaurants and residential buildings, no industrial buildings, which means the wastewater is the same at night as during the day. For this reason, composite sampling is not necessary. Mr. Weaver stated they have always been compliant; they have not violated permits in the last three years. Additionally they have passed all aquatic toxicity tests over the last 10 years (at least).

2) Acute Aquatic Toxicity testing

The tests cost about \$300 each. Mr. Weaver stated, to best of his knowledge, the city of Hartford does this test 4 times a year. The commission agreed that

a small station, such as East Haddam, should not have to complete as many tests as a large city.

3. UV Dose

Mr. Weaver stated the draft permit would require four readings per day. He recommends one reading per day. This would provide the same ratio when considering how many readings some of the larger cities complete each day.

Mr. Lord stated he thinks Mr. Weaver should make a call to explain their concerns to the DEEP. A formally written document can follow. During the phone call Mr. Weaver would explain that this is a smaller plant when compared to the other plants along the Connecticut River.

Mr. Ventres stated they should be prepared to put this in writing. Mr. Pettinelli thinks the follow-up to the phone conversation should be a formally letter. Mr. Weaver stated he could help write formal letter as well.

Mr. Lord said they could have a special meeting, if need be, to go over the details in the permit, with the DEEP. He stated is also willing to have an in-person meeting.

Mr. Ventres presented the following items: A bill for a well line at the treatment plant, which was leaking and a letter from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), regarding construction for the 2019 season. The letter stated that the towns would be responsible for covering 50% of the cost to raise structures during road construction. Currently, East Haddam has no structures to be raised on the roads being paved, however, they will keep this in mind in the future.

B. Budget discussion:

The EDUs of the following properties were discussed:

62 Creamery Road – More Fit – Mr. Ventres has not been able to find any comparable properties to use when evaluating the EDUs but he is going to check with the water company next.

67 Creamery Road – This property will be reviewed again after any potential changes are made. An office may be added to the property.

19 Main Street – Formerly the Sweet Shop - This property is currently 3 units, comprised of 2 apartments with a total of 5 bedrooms as well as a storefront. Mr. Blaschik suggested this property could be increased from 1.5 EDUs to 2.5 EDUs.

32 Main – Higher Grounds – 16 total seats – Per the public health code the EDUs should be increased to at least 1. Mr. Ventres will run calculations on this for next meeting; so all restaurants are charged equally.

40 Main Street – This property, which was previously a bank, is now a single family home. It was suggested to increase the EDUs from 0.5 to 1.

44 Main Street – This is a two family. Mr. Blaschik and Mr. Casner suggested this might be a 3 family home. Mr. Ventres will double-check this information for the next meeting.

83 Main Street – Mr. Ventres is going to find the final floor plan and present numbers for next meeting.

3 Norwich Road – Julia Balfour, LLC – This used to be single family home. It is now an office building. Mr. Ventres is going to ask Ms. Balfour for the number of employees occupying the office so they can follow the guidelines of the health code, which suggests 20 gallons per person.

4 Norwich – Julia Balfour – This is currently a yoga studio with additional units. Mr. Ventres is also is going to get a headcount and floor plan for this property.

5 Norwich Road – Swing Bridge Wine & Spirits – This property will be decreasing in size (the brick portion is to be removed). It will also be converted into an office space.

7 Norwich Road – Bishopsate Inn – No changes proposed.

8 Norwich Road – Boardman House Inn – The committed agrees that this property, and the above property should be adjusted to the have the same EDUs. Mr. Casner stated this property should be increased, as it was previously a private residence.

Mr. Lord stated they would need to get the final numbers together so they can propose them at a public hearing. Mr. Ventres stated the billings go out in October. He also said he will need at least one month to obtain the necessary figures. Mr. Ventres then presented the proposed changes from 2005 so that the committee could use them as a comparison.

Mr. Ventres suggested having the public hearing in May. Mr. Casner and Mr. Blaschik suggested April.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Pettinelli, seconded by Mr. Blaschik, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.