

**TOWN OF SOMERS
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Botellio at 7:50p.m. Present were members Jim Botellio, Jim Faust, Steve Getman and Dan Fraro. Also attending were Sanitarian Steve Jacobs and Mike Mocko.

II. SOMERSVILLE WPCF – EXPANSION UPDATE

Mr. Jacobs said that the Town has received all the lien waivers. Mr. Bottelio noted that the WPCA had voted previously to release the Bond when these waivers were received. Mr. Mocko confirmed that all equipment, suppliers and sub-contractor lien waivers have been received.

The WPCA was also waiting for an as-built for the project and a letter from Mr. Frank Smith regarding the hydro-ranger. Mr. Mocko reported that the as-built is coming and Mr. Jacobs received an e-mail from Associated Measurements Company who had originally installed the hydro-ranger. This e-mail states the damage was most likely caused by an electrical surge or lightening. Mr. Jacobs said there is no recourse for recovery of the hydro-ranger repair expense. The replacement cost was \$1,992 and the Town's insurance deductible is \$2,500. Mr. Jacobs will confirm this deductible amount.

Regarding the general operation of the Somersville facility, Mr. Jacobs reported there have been a couple of small issues.

1. One pump is drawing high amperage in the primary pump chamber and has been tripping out on overload. Frank will be coming to check the pump over. A simple clog is unlikely to be causing the problem since the effluent is filtered several times before reaching the pump. And this was supposed to be a state of the art non-clogging pump. Mr. Mocko proposed that it might be a shim clearance issue like had happened at the Quality Ave. facility. He explained how this could happen.
2. Occasionally, the computer recycling seems to have a glitch, but nothing that can be pinpointed. Frank will also look at one of the upper panels that had been a problem. These repairs are still covered by the maintenance bond.
3. The leaks in the valve chamber have been repaired.

Mr. Mocko explained the redesign of the pump for the UV chamber. It will be possible to remove the pump in the winter, but Mr. Mocko does not think this will be necessary. At this time the UV bulbs have been pulled since it is not necessary to disinfect between October 15th to May 15th. In the future the WPCA will need to purchase a lift for pulling the pumps. The kind of hoist system that would be needed was discussed.

Mr. Jacobs explained that the transfer of money from the WPCA account to the General fund had been requested. This transfer will have to wait since Finance Director Simmons informed him that transferring such a large amount requires a Town meeting.

Mr. Mocko informed the WPCA that Hinckley has requested that the performance and payment bond be changed to a maintenance bond. Typically the maintenance bond would be 10% of the contract. The Town would receive a bond or letter of credit for \$78,000 to release the bond the Town currently holds. Hinckley would prefer to provide a letter of credit rather than a bond. Mr. Mocko said the effect of either is the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraro; seconded by Mr. Faust and unanimously voted to release the construction and payment bond in lieu of a maintenance bond of 10% of the contract or \$78,000.00.

Mr. Jacobs will release Hinckley's last bill to Mr. Simmons for payment.

III. SEWER/WATER BILLING – COLLECTION UPDATE

The sewer bills, and intent to lien notices were sent out last month. A few more payoffs have been received and the remaining delinquent accounts were liened. Mr. Jacobs sent a letter to two of the long-term delinquent account holders indicating that they have defaulted on their payment plan and to contact the office.

The water assessment bills will go out next month.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/WPCA – FEE SURVEY

Mr. Jacobs provided a spreadsheet showing the fees charged by the Eastern Highlands and North Central Districts in comparison to Somers fees. He said that the Town's fees are comparable to Eastern Highlands but are much less than North Central. Mr. Jacobs does not recommend any fee increases at this time. He does recommend however, that there be a late fee if applications are not submitted in time. Late payments are particularly problematic with the temporary food services at the Four Town Fair.

A motion was made by Mr. Getman; seconded by Mr. Faust and unanimously voted to impose a late fee for any health fee, license or permit equal to 50% of the fee, to be effective July 1, 2009 and to refer this proposal to the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

V. CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Jacobs notified the WPCA that a \$3,871.95 reimbursement check was received from the DEP for the water service connection at the sewer plant.

The DEP has installed filtration systems for the homes on Brittany Lane. A responsible party report has not yet come from the DEP regarding the arsenic contamination. A discussion ensued regarding whether the Town should require arsenic testing as part of the standard water test. Mr. Jacobs said that currently the Town requires testing for metals or organic compounds as a condition of a subdivision approval when groundwater contamination is suspected.

Mr. Jacobs said that a notice was received from the DEP regarding stimulus money. The State will be using the same priority system for awarding, which does not favor small communities.

A letter was sent to all the local septic tank cleaners that the Town lagoon will close July 1, 2009 and that discharge will be accepted by the Town of Vernon.

There was recently an inspection of the generator system at the sewer plant. Replacement of the radiator and battery is recommended. The quote for the repair is \$2,840. The repair could probably be done for far less money through a local business but that might invalidate the service contract warranty. It was recommended to discuss the options with the BOS.

The quarterly monitoring reports of the Rye Hill area show little or no change in the PCE levels. The quarterly report of the PCE remediation at the prison show that the groundwater treatment systems are doing the job but the PCE levels remain nearly the same

The following bills were presented for payment:

Environmental Monitoring Labs	For Toxicity Testing	\$562.50
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Somers Ace Hardware	Batteries, Locks & chains for the treatment plant.....	\$25.11
Markson Lab Sales.....	Replacement parts of lab testing equipment.....	\$163.53

A motion was made by Mr. Faust; seconded by Mr. Fraro and unanimously voted to pay the bills.

XII ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Getman; seconded by Mr. Faust and unanimously voted to adjourn the WPCA meeting of January 13, 2009 at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fraro, Secretary

Jeanne Reed, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING