

TOWN OF SOMERS  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting and Zoom



CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Stephen Getman. Other members present were: Emily Dreyer, Mark Folsom, Daniel Fraro, and Tim Vecchiarelli. Also present were Daniel Parisi, Plant Engineer, and Matthew Jermine, Engineering Consultant, of Weston & Sampson. Guest: Todd Rolland, Director of Public Works

- I. MINUTES The minutes of Special Meeting on May 9, 2022 were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Dreyer to approve the minutes with one date change, seconded by Mr. Folsom, all in favor, motion passed.
- II. Todd Rolland, Director of Public Works, spoke to the Commissioners regarding the proposed USIC Agreement. A discussion was held regarding the terms of the agreement. The Town Attorney had a question about the limit of damages which was determined to be \$350.00. The term of the agreement is indefinite and includes 60-day notice for cancellation. Marking the sewer drains was reviewed. Mr. Folsom made a motion to accept the agreement and return it to the Town of Somers for processing. Ms. Dreyer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- III. A motion was made by Mr. Vecchiarelli to enter Executive Session at 7:08 which was seconded by Mr. Folsom, all in favor, motion passed. The Commissioners closed the Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. and returned to the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Folsom to reverse Agenda Items IV and V to allow Consultant Matthew Jermine time to enter the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dreyer, all in favor, motion passed.

IV. SOMERSVILLE WPCF – Plant Upgrade: Weston & Sampson

Mr. Jermine of Weston & Samson presented his report outlining the current status of upgrades to the Somersville Water Pollution Control Facility. Mr. Jermine confirmed the good news from the Office of Representative Courtney. He discussed the meeting with DEEP and the proposal for a Clean Water Fund Grant. He noted that the recent meeting with DEEP personnel was very positive and encouraging.

The Clean Water Fund is intended to provide funds for improving the quality of discharge waters which is the intent of the proposed upgrade. A question was raised on

when funds would be available. Clean Water Fund grants are based on a scoring system including the number of users in a system.

The STAG Program (*Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grant*) is a better option as it provides a greater level of funding. STAG can fund potentially 80% of a project with 20% provided by the requesting agency. Mr. Jermine will provide additional information to Mr. Parisi which will be shared with the Commission.

Recent test results were discussed. Results have shown a decrease in turbidity which typically happens in the Spring. The recent replacement of the actuator has helped even the flow of the effluent over the beds and reduced the ponding. The quality of the sand and the wastewater strength are two critical components.

A test sample of the sand was taken and evaluated. Regarding the Upgrade Proposal, Mr. Jermine suggested that one cost savings could involve reusing the sand from the beds and mixing it with pea stone to make the beds more efficient rather than replacing all of the sand. A suggestion was made to dig down more deeply into the beds to assess the current quality of the sand.

So far, all three primary tanks and one secondary tank have been pumped out this Spring. Plans are underway to pump the remaining secondary tanks.

Mr. Jermine explained that Weston & Sampson is a diversified company which offers multiple levels of engineering services. Typically, they do not bid on construction for projects they design. He will research having Weston & Sampson's Construction Services Department put together a proposal for the next meeting.

Mr. Jermine left the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Ms. Dreyer proposed establishing a plan for determining the assessments for Maple Ridge and Somersville System.

#### V. SOMERSVILLE WPCF – Facility Upgrade Project Funding

Mr. Parisi announced that an email was received from Representative Courtney's Office today explaining that the WPCA Somersville Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade Project was one of 12 projects which will be sent to the U. S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee for possible funding. The Committee meets in September 2022 or later to discuss budgets items which will be funded in 2023.

DEEP suggested applying for a grant from the Clean Water Fund. The application must be submitted by May 27, 2022.

A meeting was held with Town of Somers Assistant Treasurer Mr. Wissinger to discuss funds available for the Upgrade Project. Approximately one third of the funds needed are already in the WPCA Account. Mr. Wissinger noted that there may be some additional funds available. Users may need to be assessed to cover some of the upgrade costs. A discussion was held about the approximate assessment costs. Currently, the Somersville assessment is \$290 per EDU. At the June WPCA meeting, the operating budget for 2022-2023 must be finalized in order to determine the assessments. Ms. Dreyer reviewed the timeline for the budget approval and any associated changes in the assessments.

Mr. Jermine joined the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Ms. Dreyer made a motion to table Agenda Item V Project Funding discussion and return to Agenda Item IV Project Update which was seconded by Mr. Vecchiarelli, all in favor, motion passed.

VI. WPCA 2022-2023 Budget

A discussion regarding the budget report for WPCA was held. A proposal was made to have a quarterly report. Mr. Parisi and Mr. Getman will meet with Mr. Wissinger to determine details for reporting.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No correspondence and audience participation.

VIII. BILLS/TRANSFERS

|                   |    |        |
|-------------------|----|--------|
| Hazardville Water | \$ | 35.78  |
| Eversource        | \$ | 882.91 |
| Phoenix Lab       | \$ | 133.00 |
| Phoenix Lab       | \$ | 81.75  |

A motion was made by Ms. Dreyer to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Folsom, all in favor, motion passed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Mr. Vecchiarelli and seconded by Ms. Dreyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Fraro, Recording Secretary