



## Colchester Sewer and Water Commission

### Minutes of the 14 April 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting

Municipal Office Complex  
Colchester, Connecticut

**Members Present:** R. LeMay, D. Ferrigno, R. Jones, T. Tripodi, S. Coyle, T. Tyler, A. Pelletier (T. Tyler and A. Pelletier arrived after agenda item 3),

**Members Absent:** S. Boyden

**Others Present:** M. Decker (Public Works Director), R. Tarlov (BOF liaison), G. Cordova, (BOS liaison)

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman LeMay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda** *Motion to add a presentation on the status of the Town budget by Board of Finance liaison R. Tarlov, by D. Ferrigno, second by T. Tripodi; Motion approved 5-0*
3. **Approval of the Sewer and Water Commission 10 March 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes** – *Motion to approve the minutes of the 10 March 2010 regular monthly meeting as presented, by R. Jones, second by D. Ferrigno; Motion approved 5-0*
4. **Citizen's Comments** - none
5. **Subcommittee Reports**
  - A. **Finance – Monthly financial reports, other** – Chairman LeMay requested estimates for connection charge revenues be added to the capital budgets, this will be done for the May meeting and also for FY 2010/2011. There was a general discussion about the Joint Facilities portion of the sewer operating budget. No transfers were requested
6. **Water Activities**
  - A. **Water Activities Report** – M. Decker reported activities since the last March meeting included removed pine trees and stumps in front of Taintor Hill Road treatment plant; completed meter readings for bills issued 1 April; shut-offs for non-payment; various mark-outs; general clean-up/maintenance at O&M facility; monthly water sampling; State reports; routine plant activities; response to several inquiries about water coming from ground (possible breaks – all turned out to be ground water from extreme rains last week)
  - B. **Water Projects Status** – no new construction activities
7. **Sewer Activities**
  - A. **Joint Facilities Report** – Chairman LeMay indicated draft minutes were distributed. He indicated discussion topics included a plant tour for new commissioners before the next joint

facilities meeting; moving forward on their own on the new HVAC system; much discussion about the collective bargaining agreement; and a nitrogen discharge consultant proposal accepted.

**B. Sewer Activities Report** – PHPS operated continuously for several days as a result of the heavy rain storms last week – flows have finally subsided and working their way back to normal. This shows the impact of inflow and infiltration on the system

**C. Sewer Projects Status** - no new construction activities

**8. Old Business**

**A. Taintor Hill Road Treatment Plant Improvements** - written warrantee extension for the valves to November 2010 has been provided. The Department is looking to increase the warranty to one year of defect-free operation. Currently, the valves have been functioning maintenance/defect free for a couple months. If no future problems occur, November will be 10 months of maintenance/defect free operation which will be a good sign.

**B. Stream flow Regulations** – The Connecticut Water Works Association met on 9 April for an update on the on-going discussions between DEP and DPH. The DPH listed 5 key issues they believe are must have items before they can support the DEP's efforts – DPH has encouraged the CWWA to continue to pursue a legislative approach as a parallel path to the regulation revision plan. One effort to legislatively reduce the potential impact of the proposed DEP regulations, should they be approved as drafted, died in committee because they viewed it as contradictory to a regulation adoption process in progress. Regardless, it allowed the Association to continue to put forth its message. The DPH encouraged the Association to continue to pursue a legislative fix that would safeguard the Margin of Safety and available/future supplies. The Association continues to meet with members of the Regulations Review Committee and with individual legislators as well as preparing for a letter writing campaign. The expectation is the regulations will be submitted to the Reg Review Committee in late summer.

**C. STEAP Grant status** – Completed consultant interviews and have ranked consultants in order of qualifications and responsiveness – will begin discussions with top candidate for preparation of a draft scope and fee. The goal is to have a draft scope and fee proposal ready for initial submittal to the BOS at their 6 May meeting, full review by the SWC at its 12 May meeting, and ultimately have the BOS take action at its 20 May meeting.

**9. New Business – none**

**Additions to Agenda – Town Budget Status Presentation** – BOF liaison R. Tarlov made a brief presentation to the Commission on the status of the BOE and BOS proposed budget. He indicated the BOE made many significant cuts as did the BOS prior to coming before the BOF. At that point, seeing a potential 2.5 mil increase, the BOF directed the BOE and BOS to reduce spending by an additional \$500,000 and \$200,000, respectively. These cuts have been made and the net result is a 1.42 mil increase. This increased mil rate far exceeds the approximately 3% BOE spending increase (mostly caused by increased student populations) and less than 1% BOS increase. The dominant factor is the loss of revenue predominately from the State, although there are certainly contributions locally such as businesses that closed and lower interest rates.

There was general discussion about the budget, the need for economic development, and the associated importance of the work being proposed under the STEAP grant. It was also noted how critical it is for residents to understand the cuts already made, the impact of these cuts on infrastructure, services, and future year budgets. If additional cuts must be made, the likely next step is to begin removing departments that are not statutorily mandated.

**10. Citizens Comments** - none

**11. Adjourn** – *Motion to adjourn, S. Coyle, second by R. Jones; Motion approved 7-0*

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Decker