



Colchester Sewer and Water Commission

Minutes of the 8 September 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting

Municipal Office Complex
Colchester, Connecticut

Members Present: R. LeMay, D. Ferrigno, Steve Coyle, T. Tripodi
Members Absent: S. Boyden, Robert Jones
Others Present: G. Cordova (Selectmen's Liaison); R. Tarlov (Finance Liaison);
M. Decker (Public Works Director)

1. **Call to Order-** Chairman LeMay called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Additions to the Agenda** - none
3. **Approval of the Sewer and Water Commission 10 August 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes** *Motion to approve the minutes of the Sewer and Water Commission 10 August 2010 regular monthly meeting with typographical error changed, by T. Tripodi, second by S. Coyle; Motion approved 2-0 (T. Tripodi abstained, D. Ferrigno arrived right after the vote)*
4. **Citizen's Comments** - none
5. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. **Finance – Transfers, Monthly financial reports, Quarterly billing, Disputes, other** –
Transfers – none
Monthly Financials – reports were reviewed. The consensus of the Commission members present was to continue using the spreadsheet format for presentation and discussion at the meetings. Copies of the MUNIS report will be made available to the Commissioners.
Quarterly billings – meter reading began on 2 September for the 1 October bill
Disputes – a letter was issued to the customer whose dispute was addressed at the last meeting. Copies of accounts for various tenants were presented with a

request by the landlord to remove the interest charges from the portions of the bills that remained unpaid when the tenants were evicted from the property. After review of the documents and discussion, *Motion for the bills to be due as charged with interest included based on the fact the landlord was aware of the final bills which ranged in aged up to one year old, by D. Ferrigno, second by S. Coyle; motion approved 4-0.*

Copies were distributed of a customer request to credit the account for the 'reactivation of service' charge assessed after the service was terminated for non-payment. After review of the documents and discussion, *Motion that, while understanding the difficult conditions that existing at the time of shut-off, the request is denied based on the fact it was the second quarter that the bills had gone unpaid, by S. Coyle, second by D. Ferrigno; Motion approved 4-0.*
Other – none

6. **Water Activities**

A. Water Activities Report – Water activities since the last meeting include: begin quarterly meter readings; water main break on Norwich Avenue; work with P&R on Cody Camp meter pit and irrigation service line; work with electrician on O&M shop area – paint ceiling in shop; meter replacement program; various plan reviews; routine sampling.

M. Decker reported the DEP has submitted their revised Stream Water Flow Regulations to Regulation Review Committee. A presentation was made to the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) by the DEP presenting the revised regulations and highlighted the changes. After thorough review and discussion, CWWA's Board of Directors unanimously voted to oppose the state DEP's proposed stream flow regulations. Although DEP made a genuine effort to revise the regulations, CWWA continues to have fundamental concerns the regulations will negatively affect the cost and availability of public water supplies. The legislature's Regulations Review Committee is scheduled to vote on the proposed regulations on October 26. Meetings are being scheduled with legislators on the Regulations Review Committee to urge them to reject the regulations.

B. Water Projects Status – M. Decker reported, as previously noted, during the couple week stretch in early July when weather was extremely hot and dry, well 3 experienced excessive drawdown and reduced yield resulting in the water department taking action by reducing the pumping rate and activating well 5A. Both pumps were run at lower rates (200 each vs. 350 from well 3 alone) and the system recovered nicely. However, this showed the specific capacity of well 3 had dropped indicating the need to redevelop the well. Specifications were prepared and bids advertised on the 1 September. A pre-bid meeting will be held on the 15th with bids due on the 24th. This was not a funded project but is expected to be in the \$7-10K range and will likely have to be partially funded from contingency. The desire is to complete the project during a period of lower demand and prior to the winter weather. If it is necessary to hold off until the work can be budgeted, it will not get performed until this time next year. Given the importance of having the two wells fully capable, it is staff's recommendation

to move forward at this time. There was a brief discussion and then a consensus to see what the bids come in at and proceed if financially possible. The DPH will be performing its scheduled inspection on Friday, 10 September. Tank inspections on the three standpipes will be performed later this month

7. Sewer Activities

A. Joint Facilities Report – There was no August meeting – the next meeting will be on 21 September at 5:00 p.m.

B. Sewer Activities Report – a new valve was purchased for the odor control facility at Flatbrook – this will replace the second valve in the two bunkers that typically burn up over time due to the heat generated by the air flow

The fan motor at PHPS was replaced.

C. Sewer Projects Status – no new construction activities. Staff is pulling together cost information to install two new 275 gallon oil tanks inside the PHPS and run service to the generator and furnace. This is the first step in the abandonment and removal process for the 1000 gallon UST at that facility. This is a budgeted project.

8. Old Business

A. STEAP Grant – Continued progress on the project. Plans have been issued to the Director of Planning for his review in preparation of the build-out demands for each of the parcels. W&S continue to identify questions as they complete their water and sewer system models which staff is responding to.

9. New Business/Additions to the Agenda - none

10. Citizens Comments - none

11. Adjourn – *Motion to adjourn, by T. Tripodi, second by S. Coyle; Motion approved 4-0.* Chairman LeMay adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Decker