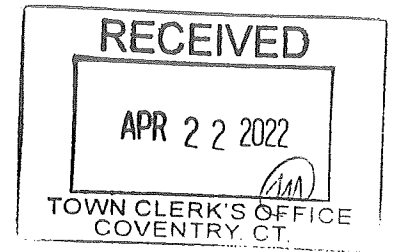


Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority  
Public Hearing & Special Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2022



Public Hearing:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Matthew Twerdy, Richard Brand, Daniel Murphy, Frank Jodaitis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator  
Bill Watkins, Director of Public Works  
Charlie Grossmann, Sanitation Maintainer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Matthew Twerdy called the April 20, 2022 WPCA Public Hearing to order at 6:03 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT and via Zoom Online Video Conference Meeting ID: 870 4662 0171.
- 2. LEGAL NOTICE:** Matthew Twerdy read the following legal notice which was posted in the Town Clerk's office and published on the Town of Coventry website and in the Willimantic Chronicle on Friday April 8, 2022:

TOWN OF COVENTRY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

In accordance with CGS Ch. 103 Sec 7-255 the Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday April 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT 06238 and on Zoom video conference.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to discuss a proposed \$25 increase to the annual sewer use base rate raising it from \$375 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit to \$400. The proposed fee increase will be posted in the Coventry Town Clerk's Office no later than April 8, 2022.

To access Zoom via computer go to <https://zoom.us/join> or  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046620171?pwd=M2dlZ3dFZnBtQSt5eEZ4TWdPdFBvZz09>

To access Zoom via telephone dial 929-205-6099

The Meeting ID is 870 4662 0171 and the Passcode is 472977

Please state your name and address each time you are called on to speak during the meeting in order for you to be properly recognized for the record.

3. **PROPOSED SEWER USE RATE INCREASE:** Much planning and discussions went into the decision to increase sewer rates. A \$25/year rate increase is necessary to meet the needs of the operating budget, debt service payments, and approved capital improvement projects. The last rate increase was 5 years ago. At \$400/year Coventry will still be below the state average sewer use fee which is over \$500/year. No members of the public attended the meeting to comment.
4. **Matt Twerdy adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:05 PM.**

**Special Meeting:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Matthew Twerdy, Richard Brand, Daniel Murphy, Frank Jodaitis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator  
Bill Watkins, Director of Public Works  
Charlie Grossmann, Sanitation Maintainer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Matthew Twerdy called the April 20, 2022 WPCA Special Meeting to order at 6:06 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT and via Zoom Online Video Conference Meeting ID: 870 4662 0171.

1. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None

2. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. The Minutes from the March 10, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting were reviewed.

**MOTION 2022-4-20-1: To approve March 10, 2022 WPCA Regular Meeting Minutes.**

By: Brand                      Seconded: Jodaitis

**The Motion carried with the following vote:**

For: Brand, Murphy, Twerdy, Jodiatis

Against: None

Abstain: None

- b. The proposed sewer use rate increase was discussed.

**MOTION 2022-4-20-2:** To increase the sewer use base rate by \$25 per EDU raising it from \$375/year to \$400/year. The increase will go into effect on July 1, 2022 and be reflected in bills that go out in August 2022.

By: Murphy                      Seconded: Brand

**The Motion carried with the following vote:**

For: Brand, Murphy, Twerdy, Jodiatis  
Against: None  
Abstain: None

Staff will post notice of the increase in the Town Clerk's Office, Town website, and Willimantic Chronicle.

- c. The Wastewater Management Planning Study RFQ was discussed. The RFQ was posted on April 5, 2022. Qualifications are due May 3, 2022. We have had interest from a couple of firms and will re-send it to firms who did not confirm receiving it.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Sewer system capacity was discussed. Flows are typical for this time of year. As always developers should come to the WPCA with sewer connection/expansion requests.
- b. The Bolton Gateway (Route 44) Sewer Project was discussed. Our consulting engineer completed conceptual design and opinion of cost for the project area. We had a meeting with Town Administrators and staff from Bolton & Vernon who support the project. We will join an upcoming Bolton Lakes WPCA Meeting. We applied for a grant through the EPA and hope to hear back by the end of May.
- c. The current year WPCA budget was reviewed. We are in good shape as we approach the end of the fiscal year.

### **4. WPCA STAFF REPORT:**

- a. The Treatment Plant Operator Report for March 2022 was reviewed.
  - i. We were disappointed to learn that a State program through the DSS (LIHWAP) to help low income families pay delinquent sewer use bills was intended for households who have had their drinking water turned off for non-payment and need to pay their combined water & sewer bills to get their water turned back on. Coventry does not have combined water & sewer bills since the Town does not own or operate any drinking water utilities so this program will not benefit our sewer users.
- b. The Collection System Report for March 2022 was reviewed.

- i. We are doing lots of work on manholes in roads that are being paved in the Lakeview Terrace and Lakewood Heights areas. We found a manhole that was almost completely blocked by wipes and removed the blockage before any basements were flooded. Wipes (even flushable) are a huge problem in Coventry and every sewer system in the world.
- ii. We installed drains off the gutter downspouts at the Avery Shores pump station to stop stormwater runoff from getting into the sewer system.

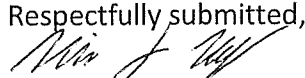
**5. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

- a. The 2022 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report was submitted by staff.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

Matthew Twerdy adjourned the April 20, 2022 WPCA Special Meeting at 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

 4/22/2022

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

***\*These minutes are not official until approved by the WPCA at the next regular WPCA meeting.***