Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Twerdy, Susan Jamaitus, Richard Brand, Daniel Murphy

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER: Matthew Twerdy called the May 14, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom Online Video Conference ID 885 7253 7307.

2. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

a. Mr. Jay Foster, Eversource. Eversource was upgrading electrical service to the building at 1465 Main St. During install an Eversource truck drove over the septic tank and damaged it. Staff have told the property owner and Eversource that Town regulations prohibit repairs to septic tanks when public sewer is available and that a sewer connection is required. Mr. Foster stated he acquired rough estimates for septic tank repair ($5,000) and sewer connection ($50,000). Staff elaborated on why the sewer connection estimate is so high. Eversource is willing to pay for septic tank repairs and is requesting a variance from the sewer connection regulation due to the high costs. The WPCA discussed the septic tank repair regulation and agreed that the intention of the rule is to prevent failing septic systems from continued operation when sewer is available. Staff noted that the building is used for storage and has very low water use. There has been no evidence of septic leaching field failure. The WPCA will consider a variance to this rule if Eversource can demonstrate that the leaching field is functioning properly. Mr. Foster will have the septic tank pumped out and the leach field inspected. Staff will inform the owner and Health Dept.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

a. The Minutes from the March 12, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting were reviewed.

MOTION 2020-5-14-1: To approve March 12, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting Minutes.
By: Brand Seconded: Jamaitus

The Motion carried with the following vote:
For: Brand, Twerdy, Jamaitus
Against: None
Abstain: Murphy
4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Sewer system capacity was discussed. We inspected 2 repairs made last fall and both are holding up well. Flows are typical for this time of year. As always developers should come to the WPCA with sewer connection/expansion requests.

b. The Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area was discussed. The Town Manager was invited to a conference call with DEEP, OPM, officials from Bolton & Vernon, and 4 State Legislators to discuss the matter. All parties except DEEP spoke in support of the proposed small sewer extension. DEEP has concerns with using sewers to facilitate development without a complete environmental review. Also while Coventry is not applying to use any State funds or grants we hope to connect to Bolton’s sewer system which did use State grants so we fall under additional review. The State agencies will continue discussions about how to find the best path forward with this unique situation.

c. The current year budget was reviewed. We are in good shape with expenditures.

5. WPCA STAFF REPORT:

a. The Treatment Plant Operator Report for March & April 2020 was reviewed.
   i. Digester repairs were discussed. Review of old inspection reports uncovered an additional structure that requires thorough inspection by a mechanical engineer before we can proceed. Staff will put a plan and budget together for inspection.

b. The Collection System Report for March & April 2020 was reviewed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION: None

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Matthew Twerdy adjourned the May 14, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature] 5/18/2020

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

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