Coventry Water Pollution Control Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 11, 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 June 11, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom Online Video Conference ID 898 7579 4914.

2. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

   a. Ms. Christine Pattee spoke about the need for median priced non-subsidized senior housing in Coventry. Public water and sewer are needed to make such housing affordable. Ms. Pattee is aware that sewer system capacity is not unlimited. She asked if it was possible for the Town to invest in our sewer system so that we could increase development in the Village Area. Staff and WPCA members responded that yes if we upgraded our Treatment Plant we could increase capacity and likely approve certain development proposals in the Village. Cost estimates to upgrade are approximately $8 Million. The Route 44 proposed sewer area was discussed. Ms. Pattee explained that Western Route 44 is not the appropriate place for senior housing, the Village is. Ms. Pattee inquired if the CEQ denial letter shuts down development in Coventry. Staff and WPCA members explained that the CEQ letter only applies to the Western Route 44 area, not all of Coventry. The QEC (Council for Environmental Quality) made a recommendation to CT DEEP to deny our proposed sewer extension on Route 44 but DEEP issued the actual denial. The Route 44 area is unique because it would need to connect to the Bolton Lakes sewer system which was funded with State grants. The rules are stricter when state funds are used. The CEQ letter and DEEP denial of our proposed sewer extension on route 44 have nothing to do with the existing sewer system and our Treatment Plant.
   The WPCA thanked Ms. Pattee for her perspective and requested that she return with proposed development plans for the Authority to review. Once we have a number of housing units we can calculate flow and determine if the system has sufficient capacity. Ms. Pattee was thankful for the opportunity to hold an informative policy discussion.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

   a. The Minutes from the May 14, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting were reviewed.
MOTION 2020-6-11-1: To approve May 14, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting Minutes.
By: Murphy Seconded: Jamaitus
The Motion carried with the following vote:
For: Brand, Twerdy, Jamaitus, Murphy
Against: None
Abstain: None

b. Construction codes on private property were discussed. Staff review building permits in which homeowners wish to build structures such as decks, sheds, garages, additions, etc. above their buried sewer lines. Building above a sewer line could complicate sewer repairs. The Authority members agreed that it should be up to the owners if they want to take these risks on their property. Staff will make owners aware of the risks of building over the top of a sewer line but it will be the owners’ decision.

4. 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 Western Route 44 Sewer Planning Area was discussed. We are awaiting direction from CT DEEP and OPM.
c. The current year budget was reviewed. The fiscal year is ending soon and expenditures are in line with our operating budget.

5. WPCA STAFF REPORT:

a. The Treatment Plant Operator Report for May 2020 was reviewed.
   i. Digester repairs were discussed. Staff are working with consultants to find a way to inspect the digester guide bearing support base prior to any steel work. Staff are continuing to look into blasting and coating the concrete.
b. The Collection System Report for May 2020 was reviewed.
   i. Avery Shores infiltration repairs were discussed. Staff identified an infiltration source at one of the pump stations. Repair quotes ranged from $13,000 to $4,600. Staff will award to the low bidder at the beginning of next fiscal year.
   ii. Septic tank repairs at 1465 Main St. were discussed. The WPCA had considered allowing a variance from the regulation that prohibits septic tank replacement when sewers are available because the septic tank had not failed, it was damaged by a truck working on the property. The WPCA had requested an inspection of the septic system, which was reviewed during the meeting. The septic report stated that the leaching field appeared to be working but strongly recommended connecting to public sewer for various reasons. The report indicated that the leaching area was about half the size of the original 1957 system and did not have
a distribution box. With the information provided at this time the WPCA cannot grant a variance from the regulation requiring a sewer connection.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:
   a. Cleaning wipes are being flushed into our sewer system and are causing operation problems that require costly professional removal. Staff and the Authority discussed how to best educate our users about the harm of flushing wipes.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Matthew Twerdy adjourned the June 11, 2020 WPCA Regular Meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]  6/15/2020

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator

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