

New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
“REGULAR” MEETING
And
PSTT (POST SALE TRANSITION TEAM) “SPECIAL” MEETING
SESSIONS CONFERENCE ROOM
Thursday, September 7, 7:00 PM

Present: Chairman Denton Butler, Members: Michael LeClaire, Polly Pobuda, Joe Toro, Mary Beth Greenwood, and guest Dan Jerram.

Absent - Wes Marsh, David Douyard

Chairman Butler called the joint meeting of the WPCA and the PSST to order at 7:00 pm.

The sub-committee gave a brief overview of its process methodology sharing subsidy options explored and eliminated from consideration based upon inequities (fairness) and inability to administrate based numerous problems, including manpower demands and billing system limitations.

Members present then undertook a review of the sub-committee on a subsidies recommendation for WPCA/PSTT agreement, subject to final approval by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Following discussions concerning viable options that meet the objectives of providing stabilization and a rate reduction for sewer and water users, within the administrative capabilities of the billing system, the PSTT/WPCA settled upon a 3% subsidy for water users and a 10% subsidy for sewer users. When coupled with the PURA ordered adoption of AWC's Eastern Division rates for water customers, those water users will experience an average reduction of 15%.

The sub-committee further suggested that the water subsidy be for a period of one year and sewer for three years. It was recommended that each subsidy be reviewed annually to consider any variables that may impact rates. Those variables include the potential for an AWC rate increase; delays in projected construction schedule for the Pine Meadow Sewer Project to come on line; and the beginning of construction for the proposed New Hartford Village Project, both of which would add significant users and thus provide further rate reductions.

The sub-committee reported that the program as designed met the “letter and spirit” of objectives presented to the voters at presale informational meetings and provided the flexibility to prevent dramatic shifts in rates on a go forward basis. It was re-affirmed that all monies held in reserve and any interest earned on those funds will inure to the benefit of water and sewer users for either the Pine Meadow Sewer Project or connection assistance.

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Chairman Butler indicated that AWC and the WPCA were working on the final administrative implementation issues to facilitate a smooth transition following execution of the sale of assets, currently schedule for October 2, 2023.

A motion by LeClaire, seconded by Pobuda to accept the recommendation of the subsidy sub-committee and refer this decision to the BOS, passed unanimously.

The joint session of the WPCA and PSTT was called to a close at 8 PM following a motion by LeClaire, seconded by Pobuda. Voted unanimously.

The WPCA continued its regular meeting at 8:02 PM.

LeClaire motioned, seconded by Pobuda to recommend that the First Selectman execute the Agreement of Record between the Town of New Hartford and its duly approved engineering firm, CDM-Smith, to begin the design phase of the Pine Meadow Sewer Project. This work will be funded by utilizing the set-aside of ARPA funds previously authorized. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Jerram exited the meeting.

A motion by LeClaire, seconded by Pobuda to accept the WPCA/PSTT meeting minutes of August 3, 2023 passed unanimously, with Joe Toro abstaining.

Following a brief review of operations reports and financials and with no new business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. following a motion for same by Mr. LeClaire, seconded by Mrs. Pobuda and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denton Butler, Acting Secretary