



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of September 20, 2021
Water/Sewer Commission
Remote Meeting

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Paul Gagner, Cameron Coleman, Jack Rydlak, Russ Jennings, Peter Boria, Sue Guerin
Absent: Dave Cantwell

- I. **Call to Order.**
- II. **Commissioner's Public Forum**
- III. **Consent Agenda/Warrants Approvals as Needed**

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the minutes as written from August 9, 2021.
Seconded by Mr. Coleman,
Roll call vote was taken Rydlak aye, Coleman aye, Gagner aye, Jennings aye.
Motion passes.

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the warrants for September 20, 2021, in the amount of \$45,084.03
Seconded by Mr. Coleman
Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Coleman aye, Gagner aye, Jennings aye.
Motion passes.

- I. **Scheduled Appointments**
Veolia - Vinny Masterson present

July Monthly Operating Report - The monthly safety check list was completed. July's safety training was on Compressed Gas Cylinders and Hot Work Safety, both completed on the JJ Keller platform. During the month of July, there were no exceedances to report. Operations and Maintenance – Lafleur Elec installed and programmed the new VFD for EQ tank 3 Pump A. July 9th the remnants of hurricane Elsa hit us with 2.5" of rain. The plant was overrun with influent. All pumps were running at capacity. We added the gas-powered trash pump to aid in moving the water to the top of the process. Veolia Technical and Performance team met at the Charlton WWTP. They reviewed all processes and developed an extensive sampling plan. As part of the MOR was a chart of details listing the samples that were collected every day for seven days straight. COMAG had a mixer fail. RBC #2 overflowed. This seemed to be caused by rags that passed through when the influent screens were offline. On July 17th we received another big rain event bringing us 2" of rainfall. Our maintenance software, Allmax Antero is continually being loaded and every week a batch of work orders is being distributed. Collection Systems – On July 14th Muggett Hill PS called out for a high wet well alarm. Slims Sewer Service was called in to pump it down. Once the wet well was emptied, we discovered a leak in the piping which was caused by a failed PVC fitting. Engineers checked manholes on Rte. 20 to establish flow capabilities. N. Main St called out for high sound alarm. When the pump was pulled, we found that it was packed with wipes.
Pump Station Activities –Daily checks completed at 5E, 6W and North Main.
There were 6 Grinder pump calls and 198 dig safe requests.
Comments – the results of the sampling plan have come back, and a comprehensive report will be coming. As a result, the plan is going to be to switch the plant back to Ferric Chloride for coagulation. PH will maintain at its current range. We are holding off on the purchase of the lime feeder until the study is complete to make sure we get the right size or need to take a different path.

Sewer Plant Operations Agreement - Mr. Oatley was unable to be in attendance. This past Friday we received a copy of the revised price proposal (part of the packet). After reviewing it, there was question regarding the allowance for sludge. Mr. Oatley will review and have to the commission for the next meeting.

Mr. Boria stated that the biggest change to lower the price was the annual true up for both chemical and sludge. At the end of the year documentation of costs will be provided and at the point we will either pay the difference or get a credit. Also, to lower cost, line jetting was removed as well as the removal of Veolia supplying the vehicle. For this Fiscal Year we will have 4 months at the current price and 8 months at the new price. Based on what we have budgeted, we will have to go to Special Town Meeting and ask to increase our Plant Operation Line item by an additional \$100,000.00 to cover the cost of this increase for the remainder of this fiscal year. Mr. Boria suggested hiring a consultant for a rate increase study and the possibly move to a tiered rate structure and implement effective July 1 and balance our budget for FY23.

II. New Business

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

The Town is scheduled to receive approximately 4 Million in ARPA funds from the Federal Government. These funds are intended to be used on specific items. Water and Sewer infrastructure are among the items eligible.

John Oatley and his team will create a proposal and create projects for us to submit. After speaking with the Town Administrator, Mr. Boria believes there is about 1 million dollars set aside for improvements at the treatment plant. One possibility is improvements for the Headworks building, which is original to the treatment plant. Or the EQ tanks, find a way to start with an ammonia treatment, helping the plant run more efficiently. Veolia will come up with proposals/ preliminary design of projects to submit to the Town Administrator, approve the funding, so we can start the engineering process then to engineering design and construction.

Generator Service Contract.

Our Generator maintenance service contract which covers 9 generators is up for renewal. 2 Quotes were attached to the packet. One from FM generator, our current provider in the amount of \$3,350.00 and Bigelow Electric in the amount of \$3,800.00.

Currently when maintenance is performed, they send us a list of recommended repairs, most recently was having the coolant flushed, block heater cooling lines needed to be replaced, and air filters replaced. The cost for them to do that was approx. 15-17k. Vinny and his team were able to complete the majority of these, saving us a lot of money.

It is a good contract to have for semi annual maintenance.

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the contract with FM Generator for \$3,350.00. Seconded by Mr. Coleman.

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Coleman aye, Gagner aye, Jennings aye.

Motion passes.

Sewer Billing for New water customers

With current sewer customers being connected to town water as part of the Exxon Mobil project we would like to transition any flat rate sewer users over to metered users now that they have a meter to bill from.

Mr. Boria asked the commissioners if the customers should be changed regardless and be billed on metered usage. Or give them the option to stay billed at a flat rate.

A letter would be sent to the current homeowners notifying them of the change. And if they choose to change to meter, a form authorizing the change would need to be completed. **The commission decided to let the resident decide whether they would like the change.**

Privilege fee for Lot 17-B-13.8

This was a privilege fee that was originally assessed to Rockaway Realty Trust for a 32-unit duplex subdivision. He has previously sold that, and when he did, that portion of the property for the development, a new lot was created, but the betterment stayed with the original lot. We have taken votes to transfer that privilege fee to the new lot. We are asking the commission to sign a new lien that we can record.

Purchase of a new truck

Mr. Boria has been getting prices to replace the 2012 Ford F250 that Veolia uses. Mr. Boria would like to propose the purchase of a new truck with a service body and plow. There is one in stock with a cost of \$50,219.00 and a lead time of 8-12 weeks. We have enough in our capital line to cover the cost. If we wait for approval from the special town meeting, this one in stock will be gone and we would have a 4-6 month wait if one is ordered.

At the Special Town meeting we would need to transfer funds back into our capital account from Retained Earnings. Mr. Jennings asked if Mr. Boria would look into having the current truck be taken in as trade. Mr. Boria is looking to have the commission to approve the full amount in case the trade is not taken.

Mr. Coleman motioned to move forward with the purchase of the new truck in the amount of \$50,219.00. Seconded by Mr. Gagner.

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Coleman aye, Gagner aye, Jennings aye.

Motion passes.

III. Old Business**Buffumville Access Rd RFP**

We received 18 proposals to construct the Buffumville access road ranging from 1.3 million to 3.56 million. A copy of the list of bidders was part of the packet. This was presented for informational purposes. At a past meeting Mr. Jennings requested that this be discussed at a separate meeting. Mr. Jennings proposed a possible subcommittee and then meet on October 5th to discuss the overall direction of moving forward with Buffumville and water supply in general.

Mr. Coleman expressed interest. We will post as a full meeting for October 5th via zoom should 3 or more commissioners be interested in attending.

Waterline Construction Update.

School loop – The grace period mailing from the WS commission was sent out 7-22-2021.

Kleinfelder is due to send out another certified mailing in November of 2021.

Mr. Jennings suggested sending another grace period letter from the WS commission at the beginning of the year.

Service Connections – Albanese Brothers continue to install service lines to homes and work with their sub-contractors to make the actual connections. So far there are 138 signed agreements and 70 of those have been completed.

IV. Next Meeting Announcement – October 4, 2021

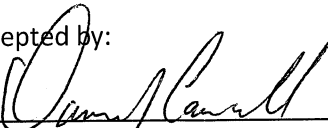
Mr. Gagner motions to adjourn at 7:15pm. Seconded by Mr. Coleman.

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Coleman aye, Gagner aye, Jennings aye

Motion passes.

Submitted by:
Sue Guerin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

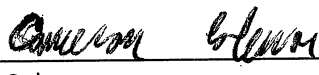


Dave Cantwell



Paul Gagner

Jack Rydlak



Cameron Coleman

Russ Jennings

Minutes were approved on 10/5/2021.