

Town of Stafford
Water Pollution Control Authority
 Special Meeting
 Stafford Senior Center
 Monday, November 23, 2020
 5:30 p.m.

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Members Present: Chairman Scott Bonett; Paul Burns; Richard Dobson Jr; Mandy Fisher; Roger Thomas; and Dave Walsh Present via ZOOM Allen Warren.

Also present: Jane LaMorte, Acting Superintendent/Business Manager WPCA

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1. Call To Order
2. Minutes of October 19, 2020
3. Election of Chairman
4. Chairman's Comments – Board Members Comments
5. Old Business – Mixers – Update; Meadow Lane Pump Station Update; aeration Tank Failure Update; Route 319/190 Roundabout Sewer Extension Update; FOG De Minimus Application
6. Staff Reports (Superintendent) – Plant Update
7. Collector of Revenue Report – Review of Department Finances
8. Superintendent's Position – Executive Session
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. after technical difficulties. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of October 9, 2020

Mr. Burns moved to accept the minutes of October 19, 2020. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

3. Election of Chairman

Mr. Burns made a motion to nominate Scott Bonett as WPCA Chairman 2020-2021. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

Mr. Burns made a motion appoint Mr. Bonett WPCA Chairman for 2020-2021. Ms. Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

4. Chairman's Comments

- Board Member Comments

No comments.

Mr. Burns made a motion to skip to Item 8 – Superintendent's Position. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

8. Superintendent's Position

- Executive Session

Mr. Walsh made a motion to enter into executive session at 5:50 p.m. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

Mr. Burns made a motion to exit executive session at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

The Chairman will offer the Superintendent's position to the finalist chosen from interviews, propose a contract to be accepted, and once accepted, the contract is to be reviewed by the Town's labor attorney. If position is not accepted by finalist #1, position will be offered to finalist #2.

Mr. Burns made a motion to go back to Item 5, Old Business, and proceed with normal agenda. Mr. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

5. Old Business

- Mixers – Update

The mixers have shown failures to restart upon power loss and one has a continuous rotor lock alarm after power fail. A representative from Flygt was onsite today to rectify these problems.

- Meadow Lane Pump Station Update

Pump Station is ready for Eversource to come and cut the power for the electricians to make final adjustments and then final restart.

- Aeration Tank Paint Failure Update and Possible Action

The original appointment to paint the tank was cancelled due to weather. Upon additional time with the tank being exposed to elements, another area of paint began to separate and peel. Mr. Bonett stated that it was his opinion that the adjacent full tank was leaking water through the common wall, and the resultant hydrostatic pressure was causing the paint to bubble and peel. If the two tanks were full, it would balance the pressure and minimize further damage until it can be fixed in the spring. It was decided it was best to defer the repairs, strip away the peeling paint to put the tank back in operation. In the Spring, the plant will look into full coating replacement for the tank of concern as well as the adjacent tank and catwalks.

- Route 319/190 Roundabout Sewer Extension Update

The quote for the larger diameter pipe (12") came in at \$188,000. Discussion of funding this project ensued. Members of the Board felt that since this project was for future economic growth of the Town and not operation and maintenance of the sewers, it should be considered a capital project with Town funding.

Mr. Bonett indicated that he and Ms. LaMorte were in attendance at the October 5, 2020 Board of Finance meeting and he stated that although it will provide significant savings installing

the extension now, rather than in the future, but the WPCA was requesting the Town pay for it, as it does not benefit the WPCA ratepayers. He also indicated that the Board of Finance requested an updated quote from the WPCA for the pipe installation and estimated value of assessments. Mr. Burns stated that the Board of Selectmen should request a joint meeting with WPCA, Board of Finance, and Selectmen if they want to move forward with the project. He also stated to the effect that Mr. Bonett's attendance at the Board of Finance meeting was not agreed to ahead of time with the Board, and any statements made should not be seen as a reflection of the overall Board's opinion. Mr. Burns was of the opinion that the WPCA should not provide the requested financial information, nor engage either the Board of Selectman or the Board of Finance on this issue until a legal opinion is acquired. The remainder of the Board agreed with this action. Mr. Bonett apologized for any misunderstandings with protocol and will abide by the Board's decision.

Mr. Burns made a motion to contact the WPCA Attorney for a legal opinion regarding the use of WPCA funds and the authority to spend WPCA funds. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

- **FOG Diminimus Application**

A local establishment requested a FOG waiver due to inactivity as a result of COVID 19. With the world being in a pandemic, the Board felt that this was extenuating circumstances and would not set precedence.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to grant a FOG treatment requirement waiver for 2020, due to the limited potential for FOG in the discharge and de minimus discharges, to the applicant, due to the unique conditions of the pandemic. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

6. Staff Reports (Superintendent)

- Plant Update

Three WPCF employees attended OSHO 10 training last week.

7. Collector of Revenue Report

- Review of Department Finances

Total collections for the month of October were \$87,470, and total expenses were \$47,758. The balance of the sewer reserve is \$781,955 and the balance of the sewer fund is \$1,203,497.

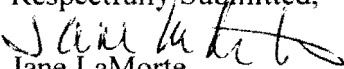
9. New Business

No new business.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and Mr. Burns seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jane LaMorte

Recording Secretary