



Town of Stafford Water Pollution Control Authority

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2016

A Year in Review

2016 was a very busy year, starting off in January with a combined meeting of the WPCA, the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Economic Development Commission to discuss the WPCF Capacity Analysis and possible utility expansion. The meeting was beneficial to all who attended and everyone came away with an understanding of how the WPCF would need to be updated if the town decided to grow and extend the sewer line to JMMC.

The WPCA supported 3M's request to DEEP for an extension to the upgrade of their pretreatment facility. A surcharge was implemented on any TSS overages by 3M. The board members also toured the 3M factory and were shown the different filter making processes.

The Entex lawsuit was finalized with a court settlement that was approved by WPCA and the Board of Selectman. The money recovered in this settlement was returned to the original funding account to help pay down the debt for the plant upgrade project.

A WPCA subcommittee was formed to examine our residential user charge procedures. The committee found it best to continue charging a fixed sewer rate fee. The budget was approved without any increases from the previous year and the rates stayed the same for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The previous fiscal year was closed out under budget, with the purchase of a new Toyota forklift truck. All the money appropriated for future capital expenditures was able to be transferred into the Sewer Reserve Passbook. New permit fees were implemented and connection charges were adjusted but Stafford still remains lower than other towns in CT.

The Woodland Springs sewer/water line project was awarded. Installation and inspections took place throughout the spring and summer. There were also new sewer connections along RT 190, including Dollar General and Family Dollar.

An RFQ was sent out for the "treatment plant facilities plan" scope of work, and Weston & Sampson was awarded this project. The scope of work is presently being reviewed by DEEP.

As the year went on, many delinquent accounts were paid off and others were placed on a strict payment plan. We will continue to monitor these accounts closely in the upcoming year.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Stafford, Ellington, and Vernon were awarded the Tri-Town Video Camera CCTV truck by OPM. This grant will allow all three towns to video their aging sewer lines and be proactive on repairs. The board members were able to attend a demo of this truck.

The WPCA approved Weston & Sampson to prepare a scope of work to rebuild the RT 190 pump station. The scope of work has been completed but the project is on hold until the town decides if they will continue the sewer line to JMMC. The generator at RT 190 pump station was rebuilt to allow for emergency power until the whole station is rebuilt. A new odor control system was installed in the station to reduce odors in the West Street area. This will also help slow down any corrosion from hydrogen sulfide in the sewer lines.

All industrial users are connected or working on connecting their effluent meters to the WPCF's SCADA system.

The RT 19 right-of-way was maintained by the WPCF employees. A great savings was realized by renting a brush hog from Bobcat and doing the work ourselves instead of hiring an outside company for the task.

The nitrogen bill from DEEP has continued to decrease due to the low flows and careful monitoring by our lab personnel. We estimate the expense will be less than \$2,000 dollars this year, compared to over \$5,000 dollars last year.

Staff cleaned many miles of sewer line this year, but had many costly repairs to our Vac-Con sewer line cleaning truck. In the end, the WPCA approved the purchase of a replacement truck with a Kenworth chassis instead of the International chassis. This truck has been ordered and will be delivered sometime in May.

2016 was a very productive year. All of this work wouldn't have been possible without the excellent staff at the WPCF and dedicated board members of the WPCA. I'd like to say thank you to the WPCF staff and WPCA's board members for your efforts and support and I look forward to working with you for many more years to come.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Rick Hartenstein
Superintendent WPCF