



WATERFORD UTILITY COMMISSION

DATE: February 13, 2024

PLACE: 1000 Hartford Turnpike / Zoom

PRESIDING: Chairman Ken Kirkman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Dembek, Steve Negri and Ray Valentini

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rodney Pinkham

ALSO PRESENT: J. Robert Tuneski, Finance Liaison
Attorney Nicholas Kepple, Town Legal Counsel

Staff: James A. Bartelli, Director of Utilities
Jill Stevens, Assistant Director of Utilities

Chairman Ken Kirkman called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

CITIZEN SESSION-None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION Made by Mr. Dembek to approve the Minutes of the January 9th meeting, Mr. Negri seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

BILLING ADJUSTMENTS

The Commission reviewed the January adjustments. There were some questions on some of the higher dollar amount adjustments that Miss Windle explained. The adjustment report will be kept in the office for review.

EXPENDITURES

MOTION Made by Mr. Negri approve the January 2024 bill list, Mr. Dembek seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Director's Report**
Mr. Bartelli reviewed his report that provides updated information on all Utility Commission Capital projects that are currently funded and the status of each project. A copy of the Director's Report will be attached to the minutes when posted.
- **Collection's Report**
Attorney Kepple gave a short report that collections were going well.
- **Ad-Hoc Water Committee**
Mr. Bartelli reported that he is seeking a recommendations for a member to this Task Force.

New Business

- **Fargo Water Tank**
Mr. Bartelli explained the need for a change order on the Fargo Water tank rehabilitation project. There is a small leak in the fill pipe that needs to be replaced.

MOTION Made by Mr. Negri to utilize the Water fund to cover the cost above the currently appropriated ARPA funds for the new fill pipe on the Fargo water tank, seconded by Mr. Dembek.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

Water

City of New London/Veolia Report.
The monthly report was provided to the Commission to review.

Mr. Bartelli reported that the regular meeting with New London have been beneficial and updated on different projects going on.

PLANS REVIEW

None

PERSONNEL

Please see the Director's Report for an update.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

MOTION Made by Mr. Negri to adjourn, Mr. Dembek seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy L. Windle
Recording Secretary



WATERFORD UTILITY COMMISSION

Director's Report

February 13, 2024

This report summarizes the Commission's ongoing projects and operational activities

Current Capital and Capital Non-Recurring Funded Projects

1. Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation and Control

FY 19 Capital & Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund L.I. #20531-57685

Original Appropriation: \$388,303.00 : Available Balance: \$283,485.86

The current study is the Richards Grove Road Wastewater Pumping Station Basin I&I evaluation being conducted by Wright-Pierce Engineers for the amount of \$27,500.00 This project consist of conducting additional inflow and infiltration I&I evaluation and Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) for the Richards Grove drainage area. This drainage area has been identified as one of the larger contributors of I&I to our Collection System. This area possesses approximately 5 miles of 8-inch diameter gravity sewer piping and serves primarily residential users. The current flows received and conveyed by the Richards Grove Pump Station are greater than the current capacity of the pump station, triggering the potential need for a capacity upgrade if the I & I sources cannot be identified and mitigated. Flow monitoring and metering will commence in the spring. The I&I mitigation and control program is an ongoing project. Our staff routinely conducts pipeline and manhole assessments with the use of our CCTV and Jet Rodding apparatus. Deficiencies are located, graded and catalogued based upon severity. Corrective repairs are typically conducted during springtime utilizing robotic trenchless technology. Sewer Contracts #2&3 cross country sewer manhole raisers were evaluated this past month, 22 manhole cone tops require replacement. A site meeting with our on-call contractor is scheduled for 2/15/24 to review the scope.

2. Old Norwich Road Wastewater Pump Station Rehabilitation

There are two CNR designations totaling \$1,299,369 in LI # 20531-57816. In addition, available ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,020,041. Total available funds are \$2,319,410. Competitive bid results for this project were received on August 10, 2023. The lowest bid received was from Holzner Construction in the amount of \$2,113,850.00. The Notice to Proceed for Holzner was executed on January 16, 2024. A Contract Administration proposal from Wright- Pierce was executed 1/19/2024 in the amount of \$55,800.00. The contractor has represented that there are long lead times for electrical switch gear, up to 56 weeks.

3. Control Panel Retrofit

FY22 Capital Improvement Fund L.I. 33122-55894

Original Appropriation: \$30,000.00 : Available Budget: \$30,000.00

This project entails replacing the existing pump control panels, which are obsolete and unsupported with current control technology. This work will ensue upon completion of upgrades currently being conducted at 10 of the lift stations, which are identified within this report and are being funded with ARPA funds.

4. Pump Station Exterior Improvements

FY22&23 Capital Improvement Fund L.I. # 33123-55895

Original Appropriations: \$ 100,000.00 (50K ea. L.I.) : Available Budget: \$44,790.34

To date under these two L.I.#s, roof replacements have occurred at Shore Road, Dock Road, Bolles Ct, Waterford Village, Sea Side, Niantic River Rd and Mago Pt, and the exterior siding was replaced at the Waterford Village and Bolles Ct stations. In addition, siding repairs were conducted at Stoney Brook Station. This program will reconvene in the spring of 2025

5. Fargo Water Tank Rehabilitation.

This is an ARPA allocation project in the amount of \$1,200,000.00.

An on-site pre-bid meeting was conducted on May 17, 2023

Bids were received May 31, 2023 which ranged from \$999,900 to \$2,214,000.00. The Utility Commission accepted the recommendation from Haley Ward Engineering dated June 23, 2023 recommendation the Fargo Water Tank refurbishment project be awarded to Utility Service Company for the bid price of \$990,900.00 and forward to the Board of Selectman for award. The Board of Selectman acted to accept the recommendation on July 11, 2023. An award letter has been sent to the contractor. The tank contractor, USG Water, is now planning to start work

spring of 2024. A Pre-Construction meeting was conducted on November 27th. The pinhole leak at the base of the fill pipe which recently presented itself was discussed. This issue was not present during the Tank Evaluation study nor was the standpipe interior evaluated during the study, as there are no means to inspect the interior of the standpipe. Alternatives to correct this deficiency were evaluated by our consulting engineer and the contractor; a change order proposal in the amount of \$217,857.00 was submitted and is under evaluation. On February 1, 2024 we met with a different Tank Contractor to investigate the fill pipe and are awaiting their estimate.

6. Gorman-Rupp Pump Station Controls

This is an ARPA allocation project in the amount of \$163,750.00.

To date Dock Road, Richards Grove Road, Old Barry Road, Quaker Hill Center, Oil Mill, Oswegatchie Rd and Niantic River Road stations are complete. Works is ongoing at Shore Rd, upon completion; the Ridgewood Ave station is next on the list.

Utility Commission staff is performing the installation of equipment, conduits and wiring. A scope of services change order was executed that directs the contractor to supply 18 cellular amplifiers and associated equipment in lieu of providing broadband to 5 stations. Utility Commission staff will be installing the amplifiers during the process of the controls upgrades. This project is ongoing.

7. Contract #1 Sewer Easement Access Project

Capital Improvement Fund L.I. 33123-55019 \$250,000.00

Current Available Balance \$174,800.00

The request for a Special Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$500,000 was approved by the Board of Selectmen on 1/10/23. On 1/11/23 the Board of Finance acted to reduce the original request appropriation to \$250,000. On 2/6/23 the RTM approved the \$250,000.00 Special appropriation. On August 8, 2023 the Utility Commission accepted Wright–Pierce Engineers (W/P) task order proposal in the amount of \$75,200.00. Survey of the C-1 easement started October 2, 2023 and is now complete. Wright-Pierce (W/P) submitted the Preliminary drawings on February 6, 2024. A plan review session with W/P is scheduled for February 14, 2024

8. Plastic Water Service Line Replacement Program

CNR Appropriation Li# 20531-57881 \$550,000.00+ \$181,300.00 = \$731,300.00

An additional 100K was designated FY24 , a request to move from an appropriation to a designation will take place when the currently appropriated funds are expended.

Current Available Balance: \$512,086.58

Work commenced on this project on May 22, 2023. The City of New London contract service provider, Veolia replaced 21 plastic services on Shore Road and Waterford Utility Commission Maintenance Staff replaced 16 services on Shore Rd. Waterford crews also replaced 35 services on Niantic River Road and 38 services within the Tiffany neighborhood and replaced 41 services within the Birdville neighborhood. To date a total of 2,488 LF of service lines were replaced. A request for an additional \$181,300.00 to replace plastic water services on Old Norwich Rd was approved by the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and subsequently by the RTM on August 7, 2023. The Maintenance division will start replacing services on Brill Ave, Old Norwich Rd. in the spring.

Water Revenue Funded Projects

9. The Lead and Copper Rule \$98,763.00 Wright-Pierce Engineers (W/P) L.I. # 21131-55302

The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), first promulgated in 1991, was enacted by the USEPA to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. In January 2021 the USEPA published the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The LCRR aims to better protect public and get the lead out of our nation's drinking water. One major regulatory change included in the LCRR is the requirement for water systems to develop a lead service line (LSL) material inventory and an LSL replacement (LSLR) plan if lead or lead goosenecks are found by October 16, 2024. The LSL inventory which is mandated by USEPA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) requires that Waterford creates an inventory of the existing water service lines materials (plastic, copper, lead, galvanized, other) on public and private side in Waterford's water system and identify which service lines may be galvanized or contain lead. W/P is currently working with staff obtaining data. Work on this project continues.

10. Bloomingdale Rd Low Pressure Evaluation \$13,900.00 Wright-Pierce Engineers L.I. # 21131-55303

This evaluation entails the engineering services to reevaluate options to enhance residential and fire protection pressures on Bloomingdale Road, near the Gallows Lane tank. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) regulations require water systems to maintain a minimum pressure of 35 psi in their water distribution system and a minimum of 20 psi during a fire flow event. In 2004, the Waterford Utility Commission (WUC) received complaints of low pressure from residents on Bloomingdale Road, near the Gallows Lane tank. In a subsequent sanitary survey, CT DPH cited a violation for water pressures below 35 psi and 20 psi at services in this area. The proposed evaluation is to review recommendations from previous study, update construction cost estimates, and evaluate new alternatives. Work on this project continues.

Wastewater Enterprise Funded Projects

Operational and Other

- All wastewater collection system components and equipment are operational with exception to :
 1. The SCADA server #1 which is experiencing issues. We have requested our consulting engineers to submit a task order for preparation of bid documents for a new SCADA system.
 2. The CCTV truck has a faulty engine, The Lead Fleet Mechanic is evaluating options although are limited due to the year of the vehicle, 1991
- Caroline Ct land survey is complete and the monuments are set. A request has been sent to the First Selectman to initiate the CGS 8-24 process. The issue was reviewed by Town Departments and the Town Attorney. A meeting with the property owner is scheduled for February 15,2024
- The GIS migration with Tighe & Bond is being coordinated by the Assistant Director and remains a work in progress.
- The Asset Management software project proposal will move forward upon full migration of the GIS system.
- The Compliance Enforcement Technician Job Description , which replaces the Assistant Construction Inspector position, has been reviewed by the Director of Human Resources and the Union. A meeting with the Personnel Review Board is scheduled for February 15, 2024 for their review and tentative action.
- We have solicited a proposal for services necessary to update and revise our Water and Wastewater Standards and Specifications the last update was 2006. A proposal will be forthcoming.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Bartelli

Director of Utilities