



WATERFORD UTILITY COMMISSION

DATE: January 09, 2024

PLACE: 1000 Hartford Turnpike

PRESIDING: Chairman Ken Kirkman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Dembek, Rodney Pinkham and Ray Valentini

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Negri

ALSO PRESENT: Staff: James A. Bartelli, Director of Utilities
J. Robert Tuneski, Finance Liaison

Chairman Ken Kirkman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CITIZEN SESSION-None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MOTION Made by Mr. Pinkham to approve the Minutes of the December 12th meeting, Mr. Valentini seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

BILLING ADJUSTMENTS

The Commission reviewed the December adjustments. The adjustment report will be kept in the office for review.

EXPENDITURES

MOTION Made by Mr. Pinkham to approve the December 2023 bill list, Mr. Valentini 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**
The report was reviewed by the Commission.
- **Water Task Force Sub-Committee**
Mr. Bartelli reported that discussion have already started on who is going to be on the Task Force. So far, Mr. Valentini has agreed to Chair the Task Force and Chairman Kirkman will also be on the Task Force. First Selectman Brule will be asked if he has any recommendations for another member. It was also mentioned that it would be nice to have someone from a different town for a different perspective.

New Business

- **Water and Sewer Permitting Process**
Mr. Bartelli reviewed the process on water and sewer connection permits that are currently handled by the Building Department. After a careful review of the ordinance, Mr. Bartelli determined that it already stated that the Utility Commission has the authority to issue its own permits. There will be a need to update the Municipality software and there will be a change order.

Water

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

Mr. Bartelli went over the agenda for an upcoming meeting on Jan. 11th with New London.

PLANS REVIEW

Proposed Hotel-Woodspring Suites on 295 & 213 Willetts Ave Ext. Initials plans were reviewed. One concern was that there is a fire hydrant not connected to the water system.

PERSONNEL

Please see the Director's Report for an update.

OTHER

A Civil Suit was brought to the Commission's Attention regarding an issue on a resident's property over a year ago (Acct# 060006422).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION Made by Mr. Pinkham to adjourn, Mr. Valentini seconded.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy L. Windle
Recording Secretary



WATERFORD UTILITY COMMISSION

Director's Report

January 9, 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 consists 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, several concrete raisers require attention. Our Maintenance staff will make the necessary repairs over the winter months, weather permitting.

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 Holzner has submitted their schedule of values, which is being reviewed by our consulting engineer. Product submittals are starting to come in and are being reviewed by Wright- Pierce.

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, 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 standpipe 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 are being evaluated by our consulting engineer and the contractor; we are still awaiting a costs estimate from the engineering firm.

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.

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 has indicated that the Survey drawings will be submitted next week.

8. Plastic Water Service Line Replacement Program

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

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.

10. Bloomingtondale 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 Bloomingtondale 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 Bloomingtondale 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.

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. A meeting was conducted on December 4th with NIC Systems, a system integrator, to discuss a corrective action plan. We are awaiting a proposal to correct this deficiency.
 2. The UST at Cross Rd station has a faulty fill pipe. Staff installed an interior tank and are working with the contractor to remove the UST.
 3. The CCTV truck has a faulty radiator, a replacement has been ordered.
- 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 is currently being reviewed by Town Departments in conjunction with the Town Attorney.
- The GIS migration with Tighe & Bond is being coordinated by the Assistant Director and remains a work in progress, full implementation is anticipated by mid February.
- The Asset Management software project proposal will move forward upon full migration of the GIS system.
- A revised Job Description for the Assistant Inspector has been submitted in DRAFT form to the Director of Human Resources who is currently reviewing the draft with labor council.
- A new circuit board has been installed on the Bolles Ct pump station generator control panel; the unit is back in service. The rented portable gen set has been returned.
- The Cross Country Sewer Easement clearing program was completed this past month within Contracts #2&3. This work was conducted in-house utilizing a rented track machine with a brush cutter. Areas that possessed suitable ground conditions for equipment access were cleared in accordance with our General Permit.
- The Stoney Brook station underground fuel storage tank was removed this past month, a new interior tank was installed.
- 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.
- A Municipal Waterworks meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024. These meetings are initiated by the Utility Commission to share information with other Town agencies, foster relationships with our water service provider and discuss all water related issues or concerns. We have conducted several of these meetings to date which have proven to be very beneficial.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Bartelli

Director of Utilities