

December 28, 2016

**Call to Order:** The special meeting of the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 6:00 pm. Member's present-Russell Gray, C. Peter Rabbitt, Neil Cook, and John Firlik.

Staff present- Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-Lincoln Cooper, Robert Wittenzellner and Scott Bighinatti.

**Audience of Citizens:** No comment.

**Approval of Minutes:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to approve the 9/21/2016 quarterly meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to move New Business, Items a., b., and c. ahead of Unfinished Business. All voted in favor of the motion.

**New Business:**

a. Discussion with Water Utility Coordinator Committee: Scott Bighinatti, of Milone & MacBroom, Regional Team Lead and Consultant for the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), gave a presentation regarding the ESA (Exclusive Service Area) assignment process going on in eastern Connecticut. ESA is defined as an area where public water is supplied by one system. A public water system provides water to more than twenty-five (25) people or more than fifteen (15) service connections. Public Water Systems are separated into community (residential) and Non-Community (seasonal, businesses, schools) types of systems. The Eastern WUCC manages the ESA assignment and process and makes recommendations to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The goal of the ESA process is to assign competent and responsible managers to provide public water supply in unserved areas in the event that it is needed in the future. Existing public water systems automatically receive an ESA consistent with their current system service area. If the Town of Sterling wishes to be responsible for future public water service beyond its existing service area, an ESA Declaration form is due 1/11/2017 at the Eastern WUCC meeting. By submitting the declaration form and having it approved by WUCC and DPH, the water utility becomes responsible for providing adequate public water service within the ESA in the event that it is needed. N. Cook will attend the 1/11/2017 Eastern WUCC meeting. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Quarterly Report from Treasurer: This report covering the quarter 7/1-9/30/2016 showed the Sewer Authority lost \$22,809.12 and the Water Company earned \$861.10. As of 9/30/2016 Sewer owes the General Fund \$170,000 and Water owes the General Fund \$20,000.

c. Consider & Act on 2017 Schedule of Meetings: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the 2017 quarterly meeting schedule. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Unfinished Business:**

a. Sewer Infiltration: R. Gray reported no new issues as it has been dry. Discussion was held regarding the sewer overages and associated costs for the last three fiscal years.

b. Water System Issues: R. Wittenzeller of Whitewater, Inc. reported that each well is checked on a monthly basis. The three (3) hydrants by the school continue to have black water during flushing.

c. Consider & Act on Increasing Rate for the Municipal Water Company: R. Gray reported that the Water Company is doing okay and sees no reason to raise the water rates at this time.

d. Consider & Act on Purchasing an Additional 10,000 Gallons of Sewer Capacity: The sewer overages and associated costs was discussed. For the last three (3) fiscal years, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 the average overage cost was \$104,927.81. Our current sewer capacity is 37,500 gallons per day. The fee to purchase 10,000 additional gallons per day would be a one (1) time fee of \$40,900. The additional 10,000 gallons will not affect the yearly sewer use bill that the Town receives from Plainfield. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to purchase an additional 10,000 gallons of sewer capacity at a one (1) time cost of \$40,900. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Any Other Business to Come Before the Authority:** None

Adjournment: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn 6:50 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary