



**Unapproved  
Town of Ridgefield  
Water Pollution Control Authority**

**WPCA Regular Meeting  
December 17, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
66 Prospect Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA:	Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark, Kevin Briody
Suez:	Jeff Pennell, Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth, Michael Burke
AECOM:	Jon Pearson, Don Chelton
62 East Ridge:	Robert Jewell, Steve Sullivan, Thom Montanari

**These are not verbatim minutes of the proceedings but identification of general items and specific actions undertaken.**

Meeting held via ZOOM Video Teleconference.

**WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Ms. Siebert**

**1) New Business**

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** Approval of November 19, 2020 Minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0, Mr. Hill was absent for motion.
- b) **62 East Ridge and 58 Prospect Ridge.** Attorney Jewell gave a brief history of the plans for a multi-family development that would add 9 units to the 3 (2 sewered, 1 unit on septic) currently on the two parcels. Access would be from 62 East Ridge, and the additional units would be on 58 Prospect Ridge. Mr. Sullivan presented different slides showing different ways to hook up to the town sewer. After discussing Plans 1 and 2, it was agreed to explore Plan 3 which would bring the lateral to the property on Veteran's Park field. Ms. Siebert stated that the WPCA does not review plans until the project has been approved by Planning and Zoning. Mr. Jewell stated that this was an informal pre-application process to see if the project could be connected to the town sewer. The WPCA suggested Mr. Sullivan review the option discussed and present plans to be reviewed by the WPCA. The WPCA confirmed that there were the additional use units available if the project is approved.
- c) **2021 Meeting Dates.** The WPCA reviewed the 2021 calendar. **Motion was made to approve the 2021 meeting dates calendar by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0.**

- d) **Review Connection Fee.** The WPCA discussed the current hook-up/connection fees for South Street and Route 7. The WPCA discussed the different terms used, Hookup Fee, Connection Fee, and Benefit Assessment all having different scenarios for calculating the fees, and different ramifications. Mr. Zawacki felt strongly that the fee is a Benefit Assessment, the fee should be increased as it has not been updated in many years, and that the fee structure needs to be revised to reflect the consolidation of the two sewer districts. Mr. Zawacki and Ms. Kozlark met with Mr. Redmond, Town Controller, to discuss the current connection fee. After discussion, the WPCA agreed the next step would be to consult Raftelis, Dave Fox to review the connection fee, and possibly seek legal advice on implementing a revision to the fee.

## 2) **AECOM Report**

### a) **WWTF Upgrade Design**

Mr. Pearson stated that as discussed last month, AECOM continued to work towards finalizing the Route 7 Pump Station, Force Main and WWTF Decommissioning construction contract plans and specifications, and the finalized contract documents were submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on December 8<sup>th</sup>. AECOM also submitted a request for authorization to advertise the construction contract for bids to the DEEP.

- i) **Schedule.** DEEP will likely take several months to review the documents and during this review period, the traffic management plans will be submitted to the Police Department for final review, and the documents will be submitted to CTDOT for the work on Route 7. DEEP's review would then be followed by DEEP's authorization to advertise the project for bids, targeting the March 2021 time frame. Allowing a bid and award period of 2 months, and time for obtaining DEEP review and authorization to award the contract, it is anticipated that the construction contract would likely be awarded in June 2021, with construction following through Sept. 2022.
- ii) **Design Project Budget.** Mr. Pearson noted at last month's meeting that AECOM was assessing the efforts to complete the design since services were provided to address a number of items that have come up on the project that were not anticipated at the time of the last budget update, which was in the Fall of 2019. The results of this review were summarized in a letter that Ms. Van Ness distributed to the WPCA prior to the meeting.

As outlined in the letter, Mr. Pearson noted that the major items that were required to be undertaken that were not included in the prior scope and level of effort to complete the design were:

- Assisting in securing the easements,
- Preparation of traffic management plans and specification as requested by the Police Dept.,
- Conducting a hazardous building materials investigation for the existing Route 7 Pump station requested by the Town Engineer.

Mr. Pearson reviewed the specifics on each of these areas. In addition to these items, as AECOM worked to complete the design, Mr. Pearson also noted that the Covid pandemic commenced which has had an effect on AECOM's efforts to complete the design working remotely rather than in the normal office setting. As a result of these items, Mr. Pearson reported that AECOM has incurred costs to date to complete the design in excess of the current budget in the amount of \$71,220.

Mr. Pearson outlined the remaining works tasks on the project design. To finish the remaining efforts to complete the design and move into the bid and construction phase, AECOM projects that the cost at completion will increase from the \$71,220 to \$80,000. The estimated \$80,000 at completion represents cost only and does not include fixed fee on that cost. Including the additional fixed fee amount of \$8,000, the total increase in fee for design completion would be \$88,000.

Mr. Pearson stated that due to the long term working relationship AECOM has working in partnership with the WPCA on the successful completion of multiple projects over the years, AECOM has elected to request an increase in the project budget of only \$44,000 instead of the projected increase of \$88,000. AECOM's letter includes a draft amendment for this amount. However, DEEP will need to review and approve this amendment prior to execution. In response to a question, Mr. Pearson noted that it may be possible to increase the Clean Water Fund grant for the design to include the increase in the project design cost, but it would likely require an amendment to the already executed Clean Water Fund Agreement, and the costs incurred for bond counsel services to increase the grant may exceed the amount of the grant that would be recovered. **Following discussion, Mr. Zawacki made a motion to approve Amendment No. 3 in the amount of \$44,000 and authorize the Chairperson to execute the Amendment subject the approval of the CT DEEP, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0.**

#### **b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction**

i) **Construction Status.** The monthly construction progress meeting was held earlier today and Mr. Pearson noted that Diana, Gary, and Jeff, Ryan, and Mike participated. Mr. Pearson presented a construction update noting the following activities:

- Modifications to the Control Building are continuing, with extensive plumbing and electrical work ongoing.
- In the Chemical Building the exterior CMU walls have been completed, and the precast roof planks were scheduled for delivery today, but the delivery was deferred until next week due to today's storm. The chemical tanks have been permanently mounted.
- The new electrical service ductbanks are complete from the new service pole to the transformer pad, and from the transformer pad to the Electrical Building.
- The foundation for the Electrical Building has been excavated, subgrade placed, and the concrete foundation is being formed and reinforcing placed.

- Work continues on a number of underground electrical ductbanks and manholes.
- Work commenced in the old sludge holding tanks, with the columns to support the new cast in place concrete top slab installed, and work on the top slab to follow.
- Almost all of the components of the new Final Settling Tanks rotating mechanisms have arrived on site. FST No. 1 is scheduled to be taken off line to allow the rotating rake mechanism to be replaced shortly after the first of the year.
- Work on the piping and ductbanks around the Blower Building foundation has been completed and the building foundation will be started shortly.
- Underground chemical feed piping has been installed from the Chemical Building, around Aeration Tank No.1 towards the Operations Building.

- ii) **Construction Schedule.** Mr. Pearson indicated that as noted last month, Spectraserv has stated that their construction schedule is being affected by Covid related delays in obtaining equipment and materials. For example, the clarifier mechanisms were to be delivered in September, but are just arriving. Spectraserv is assessing the impact of these delays and will be submitting a time extension request with supporting information regarding the delays. AECOM has written to Spectraserv on the concerns with the project schedule, and Spectraserv has stated that they are preparing a response to the letter. However, Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM has not received a response to their letter or a formal time extension request yet.
- iii) **Progress Payment.** AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 15 for the South Street WWTF Upgrade for Spectraserv that covers the month of November in the amount of \$780,687.19 and Mr. Pearson indicated that AECOM recommends it be approved.
- iv) **Clean Water Fund.** Mr. Pearson updated the WPCA that after last month's meeting, the fifth Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted to DEEP on the South Street WWTF Upgrade and this will be a monthly routine going forward. Mr. Hill noted that the Tax Collector stated a DEEP payment is to be transferred to the Town tomorrow.
- v) **Staffing.** Mr. Pearson informed the WPCA that Ted Angelakis, AECOM's on-site resident representative, will be out on vacation between Christmas and New Years, and Chris Nelson, another AECOM Resident Rep. will be filling in for him.
- vi) **NPDES Permit/Administrative Order.** Mr. Pearson indicated that the DEEP had provided a preliminary draft permit for the upgrade of the South Street WWTF with the increase in design flow. On behalf of the WPCA, AECOM had reviewed the draft NPDES permit modification and provided comments to the DEEP. Because DEEP did not act on the permit modification application in a timely fashion, the DEEP had also forwarded a draft of the Administrative Order (AO) that will maintain the current permit in effect and not impose the new phosphorus limits until the upgraded plant is completed. AECOM also reviewed the draft AO that DEEP forwarded and provided comments to the DEEP on behalf of the WPCA.

On Nov. 30th, DEEP issued the final Administrative Order to the First Selectman. The Order maintain the existing NPDES permit limits in effect and requires that the new phosphorus limits be met not later than April 2022, or at the time the WWTF Upgrade is completed, whichever occurs first. This schedule fits with the current contractual time for completion of Spectraserv's construction contract which requires final completion by mid-March 2022. However, as AECOM noted previously, Spectraserv projects that they are 4 months behind schedule, and if this time is justified when they submit their time extension request, this will require further discussions with DEEP regarding the compliance date in the Administrative Order. The order outlines the notice requirements that are required once the Town is aware that the date in the order will not be met.

Mr. Pearson noted that the final Administrative Order also requires quarterly progress reports be submitted to the DEEP at the end of March, June, September, and December on describing the actions taken to date to comply with the order. AECOM can work with Ms. Van Ness to prepare the required letter. Mr. Pearson also contacted the DEEP on the status of the revised draft NPDES permit for the upgraded South Street WWTF. DEEP noted that he recently confirmed both documents are still in DEEPs hands for review.

### **3) Suez Report.**

- a) Mr. Pennell presented Suez Environmental report for November 2020.
- b) Mr. Pennell stated that the Qual Ridge Pump Station generator is no longer producing sufficient power to run the pumps.
- c) Mr. Richmond received a quote from IDC to replace the generator and transfer switch for \$45,000 to \$50,000.
- d) The WPCA asked if the new generator could be used for the relocated Quail Ridge pump station once the existing Quail Ridge PS was decommissioned. Mr. Pearson will send specifications for the new pump station to Suez.
- e) Mr. Burke stated that he would have Suez Engineering Tech Services help out with the search for the new generator.
- f) The WPCA felt that due to the magnitude of this cost, multiple quotes or bidding the generator work would be needed.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 7:30 pm by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Briody, passing 5-0.

**Submitted by Diana Van Ness**