

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
**Town of Trumbull**  
CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

**APRIL 27, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll Call:** The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

**Present:** Chairman Jon Greene, Vice-Chairman Andrew Palo, Secretary Frank Regnery  
Bruce Elstein, Tom Kelly

**Absent:** Richard Boggs, Alternate

**Also**

**Present:** WPCA Administrator/Town Engineer William C. Maurer and Town Attorney James  
Nugent

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**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Elstein, seconded by Palo to approve the March 30, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion CARRIED 4-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Kelly)

**New Business:**

***Collapsed Pipe at Main Street:*** Mr. Maurer reported a major gravity 21" concrete main from Whitney pump station collapsed on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. It receives an 8" and 10" ductile iron force-main from Whitney. When it collapsed every time the pumps came on and surcharged the manholes, it lifted the manhole cover. There was a week-old Mercedes Sprinter van damaged, (right wheel rear wheel caliper & brake line). Thankfully the driver wasn't hurt., but was discouraged because he had waited eight months for the van.

Kovacs, Burns and McVac were called in. There was no way to turn down the station to stop the surcharge so McVac ran trucks out of the Whitney station, up Whitney Avenue, down Main Street and dumped into a manhole downstream from where the collapse was. This continued for 24 hours. Burns and Kovacs mobilized to aid and pick up a line that no one knew for sure what would be found. It was a concrete 2" concrete pipe that they couldn't get 21" concrete pipe or the fittings. They ended up digging the line. There were undocumented gas lines found at three o'clock in the morning where everything had to stop until CBYD (Call Before You Dig) could come out. There was a documented line that wasn't in the place it was thought to be and a 12" water-main in the ground. It was very awkward and time consuming. The pipe was a concrete pipe and was supposed to be 2.5" thick but it was a 1/4" thick. It looked like ductile iron.

The process was very time consuming and expensive which is the next subject of the agenda. The McVac bill came to \$28,428.75, Burns 48,405.56, Kovacs \$9,347.58, Trumbull PD \$2,516 and there is one invoice

that he did not receive yet from Monroe PD but does not expect it to exceed \$2,000. In total it came to about \$90,697.89

This is a 21" line which appears to have very low pitch, the line has been video'd, Mr. Maurer shared his screen of the video. Mr. Maurer is not aware of insurance to cover the collapse, but there may be for the damage to the van.

The pipe was installed in 1982. Part of the problem was there was a lot of hydrogen sulfide in the line and concrete doesn't get along with that and it was a shallowly pitched pipe and at times was full of sewage which creates hydrogen sulfide. Mr. Maurer shared his screen of the pipe showing how the concrete had been eaten away exposing the rebar. They were able to slip in an 18" pvc pipe that fit inside the pipe, because they couldn't keep the McVac trucks running forever. The whole line and the manhole will have to be lined. The pipe run is far, they were able to follow it to Lake Avenue and Bittersweet. They may have oversized the pipe at 21" so they did not have to go deeper and avoid hitting ledge, but this needs further research. The gravity line is at risk for as long as it is. It may not end up being the whole line, it may be only where it is very shallow and there is an accumulation of hydrogen sulfide gasses. When they video'd further down they see scaling and some aggregate but not to the extent of this area. Concrete will do this and suggested being proactive and look at this line carefully. This pipe was approximately 10'-12' deep, the road was thick almost 12" thick on Main Street, the traffic did not cause the pipe to collapse.

Mr. Maurer confirmed the image of the pipe showing the rebar represents at least half of the pipe is gone. There is an on-call vendor with the town that lines pipe and is going to get a price from them and will see where they will go from there. One of the challenges will be how to handle the transition from the 18" pipe just slipped in to the 21", it may need a special liner. He will consult with Wright Pierce and the pipeline people to see what economical solution can be done. There is one section 20' long that is the worst, the other sections don't show the rebar, possibly they will replace the 20' and reline the rest. They plan to video a lot more of the lines from these pump stations especially the concrete lines because of the hydrogen sulfide effect. One of the questions for Wright Pierce is if having less capacity with an 18" line be a problem in the future, they do seem to think it was oversized. The Chair noted they may be pushing the boundaries a little but should still have excess capacity with an 18" line. Mr. Maurer stated if the rest is 21" and only leave a short section at 18" that may work. They will need to look into this further and report back.

#### **Approval of Collapsed Pipe Invoices:**

Mr. Maurer explained the extraordinary account would cover the Burns invoice and there is \$400,000 in the capital outlay account for inspection, construction of high pressure force main. This is part of a high pressure force-main, it is the first run out, it is an integral part of the force-main. Attorney Nugent concurred.

It was explained the Monroe Police Department invoice for police traffic detail had not been received yet and could need to be approved as a "not-to-exceed" amount.

Moved by Palo, seconded by Elstein to approve payment of Burns Construction Inv. # 7 C/O #1 in the amount of \$48,405.56 from Extraordinary Items 20100000-578805.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Palo, seconded by Kelly to approve payment of the following McVac Environmental Invoices in the total amount of \$28,428.75 from Capital Outlay 20100000-581888, (all McVac Environmental represent a vac-truck with operator):  
#2630392 dated 04/08/2022 in the amount of 5685.75

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VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Regnery, seconded by Kelly to approve payment of the Trumbull Police Department Invoice #10451 dated 04/20/2022 in the amount of \$2516.00 from Capital Outlay 20100000-581888. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Regnery, seconded by Kelly to approve payment of the Monroe Police Department police detail invoice not to exceed \$2,000 from Capital Outlay 20100000-581888. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Elstein, seconded by Regnery to approve the Kovacs Construction Corp. Invoice #F-2924 dated 4-21-2022 in the amount of \$9,347.58 from Capital Outlay 20100000-581888, representing the repair of the Whitney Avenue pump station force main manhole & 25' of influent pipe. VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Year-To-Date Budget Report:** Mr. Maurer reviewed the report with the commission and noted the budget is overall in good shape, they had not spent anything from the extraordinary items line item until April 8<sup>th</sup>. More used to be budgeted in that account but has been reduced over time based on historical usage. The sanitary sewer system is an expensive infrastructure and do need to use this account when something like this happens, (pipe collapse).

The only two other budget issues are:

- More money was spent on heat than anticipated and;
- The overtime account is over budget by \$5,700 to date.

There are other line items that are under budget, a transfer can be done instead of a supplemental to cover the accounts over budget. Overall the budget is fine.

Money collected from the new projects in town is deposited into the miscellaneous revenue account 20100000-480002. It may at the end of the year go into the Retained Earnings but that would need to be confirmed with the finance director.

**FY2022-2023 Budget Update:** Mr. Maurer explained the first step of the budget process is the budget is vetted by the First Selectman's, the next step is the BOF reviews and submits their recommended budget to the Town Council. The Town Council Finance Committee reviews a vets it and it then goes to the full Council for approval next week. To date the WPCA budget is unchanged from what we originally submitted. The final vote is on May 2, 2022.

### **Old Business:**

**Beardsley Force Main Update:** Mr. Maurer reported there is a pre-bid meeting tomorrow, the bid is out on the street and are waiting for the mandatory walk-through with the bidders. The bid is due May 14<sup>th</sup>. They don't know how many bidders there will be yet, tomorrow's walkthrough will be a good indication.

He is still waiting for DEEP. Attorney Nugent emailed DEEP again today explaining the urgency.

**Old Town and Reservoir Avenue Pump Stations Update:** Mr. Maurer reported they are still waiting for the control panels which are expected at the end of May. Both stations are prefabricated and one is piped, all the pieces have been received, except the control panels for the pumps.

**By unanimous consent the commission took Alternate Flow out of order.**

**Alternate Flow:** The Chair explained he had spoken with the BOF chairman and are tentatively scheduled to meet with them in June, but he had explained to the BOF chair that he wanted to get more information before the WPCA meets with the BOF, if there are significant issues he will push that date out. He will wait for the update from Wright Pierce.

Attorney Nugent confirmed he had contacted the Bridgeport city attorney for dates to meet about Wright Pierce's remaining questions but has not gotten a response. If they don't get a response soon he may have to ask to schedule a FOI hearing date.

**Contract 5 Update:** Motion made by Palo, seconded by Kelly to Enter into Executive Session based on CGS 1-210b-7 to present engineering or feasibility estimates relative to the public supply construction costs. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

The Water Pollution Control Authority entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. with the following people present: Chairman Jon Greene, Vice-Chairman Andrew Palo, Secretary Frank Regnery Bruce Elstein, Tom Kelly, Town Attorney Jim Nugent, Town Engineer/WPCA Administrator William Maurer, and Fred Mascia of Tighe & Bond.

Moved by Elstein, seconded by Regnery to end Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.  
VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Palo questioned what had happened to the project on the Trumbull/Monroe line on RT. 25. Attorney Nugent noted they had to negotiate to pass their line through private property on Spring Hill Road and believes they did get the agreement. Mr. Maurer explained the project had gone to the Trumbull Wetlands and P&Z and received both approvals. Attorney Nugent added the moratorium had to be renewed in January otherwise it would be lifted. Commissioner Regnery stated there is a small project sign with a rendering on the site.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Elstein, seconded by Regnery the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk