

## MINUTES

City of Norwich, Water Commission

April 17, 2019

**Present;** Chairman J. Drelich, Comm. D. Wilson, Comm. K. Winans, Comm. G. Baas

**Also Present;** E. Pepe

**Absent;** Comm. T. Bresina, Comm. J. Kelly

The meeting was opened by Chairman J. Drelich at 6:30 pm

A motion to approve minutes of March 20, 2019 was made by Chairman J. Drelich and seconded by Comm. K. Winans, all Ayes approve as written.

**Visitors;** None

**Correspondence;** None

### **Old Business;**

Health and Safety – Health and safety was discussed. All agree that health and safety are of the utmost importance and we would like to make strides on improving health and safety. We discussed chlorine safety. Supt. Pepe stated that the DPW has replaced the chlorine gas scales, chlorinators, and chlorine gas atmospheric monitoring at Borden, Well 2, and the chemical house. Also, new chlorine gas atmospheric monitoring was installed at the WWTP. He also stated that the operators wear chlorine masks when changing tanks. We discussed requesting PESH to come in, review the facilities, and provide a safety audit. Supt. Pepe said he plans on doing this. Comm. K. Winans made a motion to request PESH to come in and perform a safety audit. Comm. D. Wilson seconded, the commission voted and all ayes approved.

Methane gas detectors at the WWTP are out of date and need to be replaced. Supt. Pepe said he plans on including these in the future WWTP Upgrades project. For now, handheld portable meters are used to detect methane gas.

A new fire alarm system will also be incorporated into the new project. Comm. D. Wilson suggested we may want to have a backup if phone lines are down.

Bulk Water Policy – The draft bulk water policy was discussed. Supt. Pepe stated that the Dept. of Health was consulted about it and was ok with the city selling bulk water, but that it should be done free of cross-contamination. The Dept. of Health also stated if the City were to sell untreated water, they would advise requesting a statement of use from the contractor to ensure that the water is not for potable use (including pools). Supt. Pepe stated his concern for selling untreated water and concern for the City's liability if something happened because the water is untreated. He said there were other concerns with selling untreated water from Well 1, regarding the need for Water personnel to be in assistance during

the sale to operate the well pump, so they would have to leave another job. Supt. Pepe recommended all bulk water sales be treated water, obtained from the hydrant at the Fire Training Center. The Commission was receptive to this idea, and Supt. Pepe said he will continue to work on a revised policy for further discussion.

Draft SPDES Permit New Filter Plant – Supt. Pepe stated that he and Delaware Engineer submitted a response to the DEC regarding the draft SPDES permit.

USDA funding for New filter plant – Supt. Pepe stated that USDA had requested the final cost for the new filter plant so they could finalize the city's loan. The city is getting a low interest long term loan and a grant from the USDA. The grant is \$1M. The final project cost is \$5,988,262.70. Therefore, the loan will be \$4,988,262.70. The project came in under the original budget of \$6,135,000.

### **New Business;**

Chesapeake Bay – Supt. Pepe stated he had a meeting with the Mayor, Lead Operator, DEC, and EPA regarding changes in the phosphorus limit due to occur in year 2025 that will impact the WWTP discharge permit. In year 2025, we will have a new phosphorus concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L, and a revised phosphorus load from 7,300 lb/yr to 3,610 lb/yr. Supt. Pepe said that this will likely mean we will need to add a tertiary filtration process to remove phosphorus. Supt. Pepe said that the NYS would be helping fund projects especially ones in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Supt. Pepe recommends including other needed upgrades at this time like the digester improvements and replacement of miscellaneous equipment. The WWTP is 30 years old now, and much of the equipment has reached the end of its useful life, and now is the time to replace. Other improvements that can be made to reduce phosphorus loading is to reduce the flowrate because load is a function of concentration and the flow. Supt. Pepe stated that our flowrate is artificially high because our recycle flow is included in the measurement. Supt. Pepe stated he would like to relocate the flow meter so that it's only measuring the plant flow, and not the recycle flow. This will reduce our phosphorus load. Another way to reduce the load is to eliminate groundwater from flowing into and through the sewers and artificially increasing our flowrate, this is called inflow and infiltration (I&I). The city already completed a study to reduce the I&I and Supt. Pepe said he will be looking into this more to see where it stands and what can be done.

### **Superintendents Report;**

To date water revenue - \$507,953 (31%)

To date water expenses – \$200,481.33 (12%)

To date sewer revenue - \$398,037.06 (38%)

To date sewer expenses - \$351,138.75 (28%)

**Adjournment;** Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm