

## MINUTES

City of Norwich, Water Commission

October 20, 2021

**Present;** Comm. D. Wilson, Comm. G. Baas, Comm. J. Kolb, Chairwoman J. Kelly, Comm. S. Simmons

**Also Present;** E. Pepe

**Absent;** Comm. T. Bresina

The meeting was opened by Chairwoman J. Kelly at 6:30 pm. Comm. S. Simmons was introduced as this is his first meeting.

A motion to approve minutes of June 16, 2021 was made by Comm. D. Wilson and seconded by Comm. G. Baas, all Ayes approve as written.

**Visitors;** None

**Correspondence;** None

**New Business;**

1. Hillview Drive Sewer Main Repair – Supt. Pepe notified the Commission that the DPW repaired a sewer on Hillview Drive.
2. Boil Water Advisory – Water District 3 - Supt. Pepe notified the Commission that a Boil water advisory for Water District 3 had to be issued to all users in Water District 3 on September 7<sup>th</sup> because a repeat sample tested positive for e. coli. The original sample had tested positive for total coliform, so a repeat sample at the same location plus an upstream sample and a downstream sample were taken. The repeat sample at the same location and the downstream sample were negative, but the repeat sample upstream tested positive for e. coli. This sample was taken out of a fire hydrant that had not been flushed in months. The City determined that the hydrant was not adequately flushed before the sample was taken , resulting in a sample of dirty water in the hydrant barrel. The City adequality flushed the hydrant and resampled. The resample tested negative and the boil water advisory was lifted.
3. Unaccounted for water - Comm. S. Simmons asked about the unaccounted for water being so high. Supt. Pepe stated he has recently discovered a potential reason for a lot of the unaccounted for water. Many users, especially commercial users, have separate fire services. These fire services include a separate large diameter pipe connection to the water system in and they are not metered. The city charges a fee for the fire service. Users can test the fire systems multiple times per year. Each of these tests represent water being used but is not accounted for because it goes unmetered. Supt. Pepe stated he intends to reach out to all users to identify

these uses and estimate how much water is being used to test fire systems. This is expected to help offset the unaccounted for water amount.

**Old Business;**

1. WWTP Nutrient removal Study – Supt. Pepe informed the Commission of the recycle flow meter that was installed in May to measure the WWTP recycle flowrate. The DPW has realized a significant amount of flow, about 750,000 to 800,000 gallons per day is recycled. This recycle flow was formerly counted in the overall plant flow, which artificially raised the overall plant flow and load. Now the operations staff can subtract out this flow and load from the overall flow and load, thus reducing the overall plant flow and load. Now the plant reports the actual flow and load instead of the artificially high flow and load which helps the City meet current and future nitrogen and phosphorus permit limits. This single upgrade is reducing the average flow and load of the treatment plant by about 1/3.
2. Lead Service Line Replacement – Th project is waiting on the State to approve the contractors MWBE waiver.
3. Water Meter replacements – The City had until Oct 31<sup>st</sup> to provide, and has provided all required paperwork to EFC to enter into a formal agreement for the \$1,000,000 grant money to replace water meters.
4. New Filter Plant SPDES Permit – Supt. Pepe stated the DEC had verbally agreed to modify the aluminum permit. Supt. Pepe stated he has asked the DEC for an update and was told the modifications are being made by Albany and no other update.
5. Subway Water Main break – The City excavated piping on west side to expose pipe and plan repair. Supt. Pepe said he reached out to the contractor again today to try and schedule the work.
6. DOT resurfacing S. Broad and E. Main in 2022 – The City would like to replace the water mains in S. Broad and E. Main Street and has been working on a grant application with the USDA. The City has also been coordinating with the DOT on timing of the project. DOT has stated they support the Cities efforts and will be able to delay the mill and pave until the City is done with replacement of the waterline. Supt. Pepe stated he was also considering pigging and lining instead of replacement but was concerned about reuse of the 140 year old valves and not replacing lead goosenecks.
7. I&I project – The engineer is finalizing specifications. Expected to be done by end of year.

8. Chenango Lake Issues – One of the residents was leasing his cabin for the summer. The individuals leasing the cabin started making improvements on the City property without approval. Supt. Pepe went to the lake to investigate and told the individuals that they could not make improvements to city property without approval, and he would need a letter stating their intent and have it come from the property owner for approval. Supt. Pepe stated he still has not received a letter.

The weeds in Chenango Lake were not as bad as in prior years, but still a concern for residents of the lake. Comm. D. Wilson has a friend that is a freshwater lake expert, and his friend as told Comm. D. Wilson that the best approach to removing the weeds is through a physical harvesting process.

Beavers – Residents at Chenango Lake have claimed reports of beaver activity, although no actual beaver sighting was reported. The City has beaver nuisance permits for the Lake and reservoirs as needed.

9. New Filter plant open house – Discuss dates for open house. No dates have been set.

**Adjournment;** Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Next meeting is November 17, 2021 at Borden Ave wellhouse.