

CITY OF MILFORD
SEWER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
July 28, 2021

The Sewer Commission of the City of Milford held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 6 PM. This meeting was held by videoconference via Zoom.

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Chairman Edmund Collier
Vice Chairman Vito Castignoli
Commissioner Brian Bier
Commissioner Bradford Hubler

Others in attendance:

Lindsay King, Wastewater
Christopher Saley, Director of Public Works
Steven Johnson, Asst. Director of Public Works
Robert Tedeschi, Sewer Consultant, Weston & Sampson
Beverly Hayes, Recording Secretary

Commissioners and others not in attendance:

Martin Hardiman, BOA Liaison

Vice Chairman Collier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Collier stated that he spoke with the City Attorney's Office and found that he as Vice Chair, when the Chair position opens, can move automatically into the Chairman position, however, they will need to vote for the Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Hubler nominated Commissioner Castignoli as Vice Chair as he is a stellar performer. Chairman Collier seconded the nomination. Commissioner Castignoli explained that his time on the Commission will only be thru December 2021 as he is retiring and moving but would accept till that point. The nomination of Vice Chairman Castignoli was unanimously voted.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

Statements limited to the legislative function of the Sewer Commission. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Residents, taxpayers, or electors may address the Commission.

3. APPLICATIONS (PETITIONS)

a.) **59-61 Naugatuck Avenue** – request for waiver of exterior/interior grease trap

Medina Cucunijanin, 61 East Broadway explained that she is here before the Commission for a waiver of a grease trap. Health Department has classified her as a Class 3 for holding temperatures of products and she does not intend to perform cooking, adding that it is restricted in this unit. She referenced her menu and that all the items are made elsewhere other than the preparation in a convection oven to re-heat but are not cooked at her establishment. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Castignoli made a motion to approve with Commissioner Hubler seconding the motion. C. Saley suggested that they add as part of the approval that should down the road there be a problem with grease in the line from this establishment that the owner of the establishment pay for the repairs. Chairman Collier added to the motion on the table that a condition of the approval is that should grease from this establishment cause a blockage of grease in the line that they will be responsible for the cost of the repairs. Discussion ensued regarding what this means to Ms. Cucunijanin so she understands. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **SEWER ASSESSMENTS** - None

5. **WESTCOTT & MAPES, INC.** –

a. **Repair/Replace Sanitary Sewer Force Main Failures at Various Locations**

The Contractor, John J. Brennan Construction Company, Inc., has completed the project and submitted in accordance with the Contract Documents the Waiver of Lien and the Certificate of Final Payment. W&M has reviewed their request and recommends the Commission approve closing the Boston Post Road Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement project.

The Contractor's Application for Payment No. 6 is for release of their retainage in the amount of \$20,291.62. The Payment Application has been reviewed and certified by W&M, and approval of the payment is recommended.

This item should remain on the agenda until close-out of the Kelley Martin Tighe Field Sanitary Sewer Relocation project at next month's meeting.

b. **Gulf Pond Sanitary Pump Station Repairs**

Work on the project is awaiting receipt by the Contractor, Kovacs Construction Corp., of the gate and plug valves to be installed on the force main header and suction piping.

c. **Lower Wepawaug "Stonebridge" Pond Sewer/Manhole Lining**

No change since last report.

6. **CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT**

75 Cascade – Athletic Brewery Company, LLC: Sewer Connection Application

Weston & Sampson was requested by the Commission to review the current flows and loads and design capacity of the Housatonic Wastewater Treatment Plant, to estimate the remaining available capacity for comparison with the initial anticipated waste loads from the proposed development to confirm whether available capacity exists to support the initial phase of the proposed development.

This effort was documented in a Technical Memorandum to the city dated July 1, 2021.

It was found that, while the development would further exacerbate the fact that the plant is seeing more than its design influent load for BOD and TSS, and its secondary treatment design load for TSS, the relative magnitude of the increase, represents less than 1% of the plant's capacity, which from a process design and performance perspective, is insignificant and should have a negligible impact on plant performance.

Weston & Sampson recommended approval of the proposed application for the initial flow of 17,250 gallons per day with conditions.

7. WASTEWATER REPORT – Lindsay King

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Both Wastewater Plants performed well in the month of June, producing a high-quality effluent. 213 million gallons was treated at the Housatonic Plant and 54 million gallons at the Beaver Brook Plant for a total of 267 million gallons. The Housatonic plants monthly average effluent nitrogen was 160 lbs./day (annual average is 245 lbs./day and is under the 307 lb/day permit limit). The Beaverbrook Plants monthly average effluent nitrogen was 55 lbs./day (annual average is 58 lbs./day and is under the permit limit of 94 lbs/day).

At the Housatonic Plant normal monthly maintenance was performed:

1. Cleared clog in Raw Sludge Pump #3
2. Replaced four leaking lines on ultra-violet disinfection system
3. Greased and oiled step-screen
4. Fixed leaking plant water pipe in polymer room

At the Beaverbrook Plant normal monthly maintenance was performed:

5. Jet-rodded clogged pipe in Beaverbrook's digester
6. The Garage door on the sludge bay has become jammed. Part of the door was cut to allow it to open but it will need replacement soon
7. Replaced failed ballasts with LEDs in the main control building

Collection System

Pump Stations

Scheduled maintenance was performed at the following pump stations: Crawley, Grove Street and Naugatuck Ave

Other Duties Performed:

1. Generators were exercised on full load at West Ave, Crowley, Concord, Holly, Kinlock, Old Field, Buckingham, Watrous, Ryders Woods, West Ave, Sailors, West Mayflower, Welches, New Haven Ave, Anderson, Grove, Old Gate and Roses Mill
2. A new electrical service was brought into Flax Mill Rd Pump Station as part of the bridge replacement project
3. Morningside Pump Station lost power due to corroded connections on the pole. The generator ran while UI replaced the connections.
4. Currently Adams is still hooked up to a portable generator waiting for a permanent generator replacement. Wanda, Kurt Volk, and White Oaks are also without permanent generators.
5. Removed 3 clogs from pumps at Rogers Ave and 3 clogs at Watrous.

There were 4 alarms at the pump stations:

3 for Power Outage
 0 for High Wet-well
 0 for Control Power
 0 for Station Trouble
 0 for Overtemperature
 1 for Communication Failure

Sewer Maintenance

Sewer Maintenance answered 4 complaints.

Sewer Maintenance crews performed scheduled maintenance at the following T-sites:

T-9, T-17 and T-29 and carry over T-sites T-14, T-35, T-7, and T-16.

There were sewer excavations at the following locations:

246 New Haven Avenue

Other duties performed were:

1. Milling and paving City Roads; open and inspect manholes, frames, covers, rings etc....
2. Cut roots in 18" concrete main on Buckingham Avenue
3. Replaced frame and cover on Seamans Lane
4. Replaced frame and cover on Chesterfield.
5. Investigate easement from 75 Cascade Boulevard out to Depot Road
6. Friday T-sites

A total of 9,755 ft. was jet flushed, 2,810 ft. televised, 1,070 ft. spy tv'ed, 1,120 ft. hand rodded, 950 ft hydraulically root cut, 0 ft smoke tested, 665 ft root treated, and 380 ft. dye tested.

Tropical Storm Elsa

On July 9, 2021, tropical storm Elsa had a significant impact on Milford's Wastewater Infrastructure. During the storm wastewater staff was coping with heavy rain and the loss of power at 6 of the cities pump stations and the Housatonic wastewater treatment plant. The major impact from the storm was the approximately five inches of rain in a short period of time that inundated pump

stations and the Housatonic Plant.

A major failure occurred at West Avenue Pump Station when the station was running on the backup generator and the generator breaker tripped shutting down all the pumps. A wastewater overflow occurred in front of the station overflowing into the Beaverbrook Pond area. Plant staff caught the problem early and were able to restore operation to the station in about ½ hour. Unfortunately, in that time the road surface had buckled from the wastewater being forced up through the ground during the outage. The wastewater bypass has been reported to DEEP.

The West Ave generator was installed in 1985 and beyond its practical life span. Much like the generators that failed during tropical storm Isaias the West Ave Generator is exercised under load monthly and was in fact tested again several days before the storm. Due to its age, it has become unreliable. We are currently investigating repair and replacement options. In this case the 1200-amp generator breaker tripped with only two of the four pumps running (350 amp per pump * 2 = 700 amps). This breaker was rebuilt four years ago but after this failure needs to be replaced. Another issue with the generator is the control box mounted directly on the generator is subject to vibration while the generator is running causing electrical components to loosen up. Until the existing generator is repaired or replaced a temporary rental generator is required onsite for emergency power (the rental is costing \$4,000/week!).

As the wastewater pushed up through the road on West Avenue there is likely a separation or failure in the piping nearby. A 12" gravity line has been inspected near the station, but no defects were found. There is also a 42" interceptor feeding the station that needs to be TV inspected but it is running full and cannot be investigated until the flows subside.

In addition to West Ave many of the Cities pump stations were running at or near full capacity and some had backups in the wet wells creating a mess of rags and grease inside the stations.

- Gulf Pond – 3 pumps running and a flooded wet-well
- Mayflower - all 4 pumps
- Rogers – 2 pumps running; third pump clogged
- Welches Point – 2 pumps running and a flooded wet-well
- Rock - 2 pumps running and a flooded wet-well
- Viscount – 2 pumps running and overflowing to Milford Point
- Milford Point – 2 of 2 pumps running
- Post Road – 2 of 2 pumps running
- Morningside – 2 of 2 pumps running
- Kurk Volk – 2 of 2 pumps running
- Flax Mill – 2 of 2 pumps running

The following pump stations flooded from the outside (note: rain water not wastewater). Water entered their control buildings but thankfully suffered no damage due to the electrical components being mounted higher than the flood levels.

- New Haven Ave
- Kurk Volk

Morningside Pump Station failed during the storm due to water flooding the control panel inside the valve vault. Septic haulers were called in to maintain the station while repairs were made.

Generators ran at Anderson Ave, Rock Street, Morningside, Sailors Lane, Matthew Street, West Ave, and Housatonic WWTP.

The Beaverbrook Plant fared well with the high flows by employing wet weather strategies. The return pumps tripped out overnight but otherwise there were no major issues. The Housatonic plant was hydraulically overloaded during and after the storm. The flow meter maxed out at 32 million gallons per day indicating the actual flow in the plant was some amount greater than 32 MGD! Wet weather strategies allowed the plant to operate within permit for most of the storm, but solids did wash out for a short period when flow from all the outlying areas inundated the plant. The violation has been reported to DEEP. Fortunately, by using the secondary anoxic zones to settle out and “park” solids during the storm the plant returned to normal operation quickly after the storm.

Mr. Saley explained that the City is due to receive federal funding close to 29 million and it is very important that the Sewer Commission acquire funding close to 10 million for the sewers and he urged the members to push for the funding.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. OLD BUSINESS –

10. VOTING

a.) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2021

Commissioner Castignoli made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2021, with Commissioner Hubler seconding the motion. C. Saley added that they will need to be revised for the 75 Cascade Blvd that he stated that the applicant/owner of Athletic Brewing is to pay for the consultant analysis. The motion carried unanimously with the revision included.

c.) Approval of Payments

Chairman Collier called for a motion to approve the payments in the amount of \$21,941.62. Commissioner Hubler made a motion to approve the payments in the amount of \$21,941.62 seconded by Vice Chairman Castignoli. The motion carried unanimously.

11. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

a.) Administrative Approvals

Chairman Collier stated there were 21 Administrative Approvals through July 28, 2021. Discussion ensued regarding types of applications and maybe creating a car wash district to handle the high flows from that type of use.

12. ADJOURN

Chairman Collier called for a motion to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Commissioner Hubler made a motion to adjourn with Vice Chairman Castignoli seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Hayes, BS
Recording Secretary