

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY – FEBRUARY 10, 2021
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2021
6:00 p.m. via ZOOM video conferencing

Board Members:

Louis M. Accornero, Chairman; John M. Tanski, Vice Chairman; John A. Davis, Jr., Secretary; James Campbell; Nils G. Carlson; Richard P. Lawlor; & James D. Parry **EXCUSED**

Gregory J. Mahoney, Senior Engineering Technician and Michael J. Bisi, Superintendent of Sanitation, were also in attendance.

1. Subcommittees

A. Sewer Use Subcommittee

1. Subcommittee Recommendations – Sewer Use Appeals

Michael Kookan of 1415 Main Street (#20 on the Sewer Use Appeals spreadsheet) spoke regarding his 2019 and 2020 bills. After appealing his 2019 bill, Mr. Kookan was instructed to put in a meter, which he did. He feels his bills are still not accurate.

Mr. Bisi explained how Mr. Kookan's bills were adjusted. Mr. Kookan said he now understood how they calculated the 2020 bill, but he still disagreed with his 2019 bill. Mr. Tanski further explained how the Subcommittee reached the amounts they did. After more discussion, it was determined his adjustment should be referred back to the Sewer Use Subcommittee.

It appeared two other appellants were present on the Zoom call, but they were not responding. It was decided to check back before the end of the meeting.

B. Assessment Subcommittee

NO REPORT

C. Engineering Subcommittee

NO REPORT

D. Legal Subcommittee

**1. Proposed Dairy Queen Restaurant (formerly Boston Market)
2834 Main Street**

Subcommittee Recommendation: Grease Management Waiver Agreement

Mr. Tanski reported the subcommittee met and the applicant, Michael Cassetta was also present at that meeting. The subcommittee received a recommendation from town staff, which they approved, as outlined in a memorandum from Mr. Mahoney included the Authority's packet. Mr. Cassetta had a draft escrow agreement – also included in the packet.

Mr. Mahoney spoke about the chosen escrow amount and reviewed the quotes on which it was based. He added that now the Authority needed to decide whether they go ahead with the waiver agreement or stick to their policies.

Mr. Carlson suggested they give a 5-year waiver which would allow the applicant to get up and running and then put the exterior grease trap in.

Mr. Tanski said the plan staff envisioned was a 2-year escrow with quarterly test data from a third party consultant and if they consistently met the F.O.G. standards, the amount in escrow would be returned and they could continue with the above-ground system. Although not in the agreement, the applicant has the right at any time, to put the new system in.

Mr. Bisi requested that if the Authority grants a waiver, they should clarify the reason, as many, many other restaurants have installed the new system. He also does not think the reason should be financial.

The applicant, Michael Cassetta, reiterated what the agreement entailed.

Mr. Campbell asked why Mr. Cassetta did not want to spend the approximately \$4,300 now instead of tying up \$7,500 in escrow for 2 years? Mr. Cassetta said they do not want to undo everything they have already done such as repaving.

Mr. Bisi asked where the \$15,000 estimate discussed previously came from? Mr. Cassetta said he had asked his engineer for the worst-possible scenario.

Chairman Accornero also questioned why Mr. Cassetta wants a waiver if it is only going to cost \$4,300 now to put the new system in.

Mr. Mahoney reminded members that Mr. Cassetta was told by two different departments at an Administrative Review meeting that he would need to put a new system in.

Mr. Davis asked what if the old system fails the first test of the waiver? Mr. Mahoney said Mr. Cassetta would be given 30 days to install a new system.

Mr. Bisi reiterated the choices of action before the Authority.

Mr. Tanski asked if the applicant still wanted the waiver. Mr. Cassetta said yes. Mr. Tanski said he is still inclined to vote for the waiver.

Mr. Tanski, MOVED that the Town of Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority APPROVE the Legal Subcommittee's Recommendation regarding an Undertaking, Waiver and Escrow Agreement for the proposed Dairy Queen at 2834 Main Street and FORWARDED a FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION to the Town Manager.

Mr. Campbell SECONDED the MOTION. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Tanski voted yes; Mr. Davis and Mr. Campbell voted no. Mr. Lawlor was not present at the time the vote was taken. The Chairman then voted yes, and the MOTION was approved 3-2.

Mr. Campbell asked what happens next. Mr. Mahoney said once Mr. Cassetta signs the document, it will be forwarded to the Town Manager, reviewed by the Town Attorney, and then signed by the Town Manager.

A. Sewer Use Subcommittee

1. Subcommittee Recommendations – Sewer Use Appeals

Annette Benker of 91 Candlewood Road (number 7 on the appeals spreadsheet) said she was never made aware that the Authority will only go back one year to make adjustments.

Mr. Tanski apologized that the Authority's policies, while fair overall, do not help her personally. Mr. Campbell asked why, since Ms. Benker came forward last year, the Authority cannot help her. Mr. Tanski said that is why this item was referred back to the Subcommittee. Mr. Bisi added this was not an uncommon problem, many other appellants had a similar issue.

Mr. Davis explained the process for determining sewer use bills again. Ms. Benker continued to ask the Authority to look back again at her 2018 bill. Mr. Bisi apologized that they cannot help her and apologized if the policies were not clear to her.

Mr. Campbell again said he did not understand why the Authority could not help her. The Chairman stated that this was the first time she appeared before the Authority. Mr. Tanski clarified that Ms. Benker did appeal previously, she just did not appear before the Authority.

Mr. Tanski MOVED that the Town of Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority APPROVE the Sewer Use Subcommittee's recommendations for items numbered 7 and 9 of the revised February 4, 2021, 2020 Sewer Use Appeals spreadsheet.

Mr. Davis SECONDED the MOTION. Mr. Davis, Mr. Carlson and Mr. Tanski voted yes; Mr. Campbell and Mr. Lawlor voted no, and the MOTION was APPROVED 3-2.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

A. Special Meeting – January 20, 2021

Mr. Davis MOVED that the Town of Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority APPROVE the Minutes for the Special Meeting of January 20, 2021.

Mr. Carlson SECONDED the MOTION and it was APPROVED 5-0-1 (Lawlor abstained).

Mr. Lawlor stated that his computer kept freezing during the meeting, but he would have voted yes for the waiver for the Dairy Queen.

B. Other Business Properly to Come Before the Authority **NONE**

Mr. Davis MOVED to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Tanski SECONDED the MOTION and it was unanimously APPROVED.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glynis McKenzie
Recording Secretary