# Water Pollution Control Authority

Regular Meeting (Remote)
October 08, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
The meeting was virtual format only on Zoom and broadcast on
the Town of Simsbury's Public Works Facebook Live

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

There being a quorum present, the regular meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:04 P.M.

☒ Mr. Paul Gilmore
☒ Mr. Ed Kelly
☒ Mr. Jacques Brignac
☐ Mrs. Abby Lawrence
☒ Mr. Jay Sheehan
☒ Mr. Lucian Dragulski
☒ Dr. Michael Park

### GUESTS

**Simsbury Water Pollution Control:** Michael LeClaire, Assistant Superintendent
**Minutes Recorder:** Jessica Campbell, Administrative Secretary

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1.) SAFETY BRIEF

Chairman Gilmore emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant during this time of year due to increased animal activity. He noted that while some collisions may be unavoidable, staying alert can help reduce risks and protect both motorists and wildlife.

Mr. Jay Sheehan joined the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

#### 2.) FUND TRANSFER TO SUPPORT ENERGY EVALUATION PROJECT

Chairman Gilmore explained that the Aeration System Energy Evaluation project was approximately $85,000 short of the funding needed in the operating account. He noted that sufficient funds were available in the Sewer Reserve Fund and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the engineers were compensated for their work.

***Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective October 2026, to transfer $85,000 from the Sewer Reserve Fund to the Aeration System Energy Evaluation Capital Account. Mr. Dragulski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

## 3.) OPTIONS FOR SEWER RATE CHANGES: DISCUSSION

The discussion then moved to the three proposed sewer rate change options. Chairman Gilmore reviewed the proposals, which included maintaining the current approach, using the core Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U) with a 5% cap and no downward adjustment, using a water and sewer maintenance-specific CPI with a 5% cap and a 0% floor, and implementing a hybrid approach combining the two indices equally.

He noted that any rate adjustment would require confirmation by the Board before implementation. Chairman Gilmore expressed a preference for the water and sewer maintenance-specific CPI, explaining that it would more accurately reflect the Authority's actual operating costs and cost increases than the broader core CPI or the hybrid approach. He also raised the question of whether to retain a strict 5% annual cap or require Board review for increases exceeding 5%. He emphasized the value of establishing a consistent annual rate adjustment policy rather than continuing with a more ad hoc process, while ensuring the Board retained oversight of proposed increases.

Chairman Gilmore clarified that the sewer rate change proposals were presented for discussion only and that a public hearing would be required before proceeding with a formal decision.

***Mr. Sheehan made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding Option 2, which would base sewer rate adjustments on the water and sewer maintenance-specific Consumer Price Index. Mr. Dragulski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

## 4.) STATUS REPORT ON SEWER EXTENSION PROJECTS, ETC.

Mr. LeClaire provided project updates, reporting that a preliminary topographical survey conducted along Michael Road was expected to begin to assess site conditions and potentially identify the locations of sewer pipes exiting residences. At Cambridge Court, the nine foundations previously reported were understood to have been connected with further work anticipated after the completed units were sold. The Iron Horse Boulevard project is progressing well, with nearly two buildings reportedly completed and being leased.

Mr. LeClaire could not provide updates regarding the South Campus of The Hartford, the development at 200 Hopmeadow, or the proposed McLean project on Great Pond Road. Mr. Brignac inquired about the hotel project at the skating center; Mr. LeClaire shared that no further information had been received, although a building permit had been anticipated within the current or following month.

## 5.) TREATMENT FACILITY REPORT

Mr. LeClaire reported that there is no update regarding the pending NPDES permit. He shared that the new septage receiving station became fully operational on October 1st, and that staff would work with the Finance Department to implement a streamlined billing system. Mr.

LeClaire stated one oxidation ditch was taken offline for maintenance, during which approximately seven to ten yards of silt were removed. The possibility of taking the second oxidation ditch offline later in the month was being considered, with the winter operating plan still under review based on flow levels and the needs of the treatment process. Mr. LeClaire also reported a manhole overflow at 560 Hopmeadow Street caused by root intrusion in an older sewer line. Staff cleared the blockage, and all required reports and notifications were completed. A video inspection was expected to be scheduled to assess the line's overall condition, with the possibility of including it in the next sewer lining project.

## 6.) CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Gilmore explained that the correspondence to Michael Road concerned the standard notification letter sent to residents advising them of upcoming survey work, its purpose, and the need for resident cooperation.

## 7.) SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – POSSIBLE APPROVAL

***Mr. Sheehan moved to approve the minutes. Two corrections were identified by Chairman Gilmore: revising the heading on page two, paragraph three, to read "Status Report on Sewer Extension Projects" and correcting "Hop Meadow" to "Hopmeadow" as a single word on page three, paragraph six. Mr. Sheehan amended the motion to incorporate the proposed edits. Mr. Brignac seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

## 8.) ADJOURNMENT

***Mr. Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Park seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.***