Water Pollution Control Authority

Regular Meeting (Remote)
November 12, 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 7:03 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: Tony Piazza, Superintendent
Simsbury Engineering Department: Thomas J. Roy, PE, Director of Public Works, Town Engineer
Minutes Recorder: Jessica Campbell, Administrative Secretary
Public Guest(s): Bruce Mohl, Simsbury Resident

AGENDA ITEMS

1.) SAFETY BRIEF

Chairman Gilmore provided the safety briefing, cautioning attendees about the dangers of black ice during the approaching winter season and reminding them to exercise caution while traveling to avoid accidents, injuries, and property damage.

2.) CONNECTION WAIVER REQUEST FOR 476 HOPMEADOW STREET: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Piazza reviewed correspondence regarding the property at 476 Hopmeadow Street. He explained that the existing sanitary sewer lateral is a six-inch PVC pipe that connects to Nutmeg Court and currently serves the property. The owner, Mr. Mohl, recently constructed a new garage with additional facilities and is requesting permission to connect it to the existing sewer lateral.

Mr. Piazza noted that Town Code requires separate buildings to have their own sanitary sewer laterals; therefore, a waiver would be required. He explained that installing a separate lateral would involve approximately 450 feet of piping and require an additional easement through an adjacent property. He noted that the request was similar to a previously approved waiver on West Street.

Mr. Mohl explained that the reconstructed garage maintained the same footprint as the previous structure, measuring approximately 24 feet by 20 feet, with a smaller addition above it. He noted that the upper unit was considerably smaller than the garage below.

Mr. Dragulski made a motion to grant Mr. Mohl's waiver request for 476 Hopmeadow Street, subject to payment of all applicable facility connection charges and associated fees. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mohl left the meeting at 7:13 P.M.

3.) OPTIONS FOR SEWER RATE CHANGES: DISCUSSION

Chairman Gilmore introduced the discussion regarding options for sewer rate changes. He recalled that, at the previous meeting, the Board had approved moving forward with Option 2 for a public hearing, which proposed basing sewer rate adjustments on the Consumer Price Index specific to water and sewer maintenance. He asked whether any developments had prompted the item to be placed back on the agenda.

Mr. Piazza explained that the item was added to the agenda to allow members an opportunity to ask any additional questions regarding the recommendations, as he had been absent from the previous meeting. He also clarified, after consulting with the Town Clerk, that a public hearing was not required for the proposed policy change. A public hearing would only be necessary when the actual sewer rates were established in the spring. He noted that the Board could still proceed with a public hearing if desired; otherwise, a motion would be needed to rescind the previously proposed public hearing.

Dr. Park made a motion to rescind the previously proposed public hearing and instead have the policy change prepared in writing and submitted to the Authority for final approval at a future meeting. Mr. Brignac seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Piazza clarified that a written policy regarding sewer rate fees needed to be developed and approved by the Board. He offered to prepare a draft for members to review before the next meeting, with a formal vote to follow. He reiterated that a public hearing would be held in the spring when the actual rates were established. Chairman Gilmore noted that the matter was not time-sensitive and offered to allow additional time for preparation, given the approaching year-end and the fact that the rate changes would not take effect for several months. Mr. Piazza confirmed that the draft policy was nearly complete and had previously been shared with Ms. Lawrence.

4.) MICHAEL ROAD SEWER EXTENSION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Piazza reported that the resident survey had been completed and the Town Engineer had prepared a preliminary design for the proposed sewer extension on Michael Road. He stated that the Board was ready to schedule a public hearing to discuss the proposed extension with residents, potentially affecting approximately 28 homes. Chairman Gilmore asked how much notice would be needed before holding the public hearing; Mr. Piazza indicated that the hearing could be held in December or postponed until January. Mr. Roy recommended postponing the hearing until after the holidays to allow more residents to attend. Mr. Piazza confirmed that the public hearing would be scheduled for January 14, 2027, during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Lawrence made a motion to set a public hearing on January 14, 2027, for the Michael Rhodes Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Dragulski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5.) STATUS REPORT ON SEWER EXTENSIONS PROJECTS, ETC.

Mr. Piazza provided project updates, noting that the Michael Road matter was complete. He reported that two buildings within the Iron Horse Boulevard project had received Certificates of Occupancy, and construction crews were preparing to begin framing the final building. He also reported that the South Campus of the Hartford project had submitted another zoning application and remained involved in litigation and negotiations regarding wetlands approval. The project was expected to include approximately 680 units, with no significant changes reported. Mr. Piazza also requested an update on the McLean development, asking whether it has received final approval. Mr. Roy indicated that approval was imminent.

6.) TREATMENT FACILITY REPORT

Mr. Piazza reported that plant operations were progressing well and the oxidation ditch had been returned to service. Sampling for the aeration system energy audit would begin shortly. He noted that the new UV system controller had been installed and would be commissioned by Trojan UV the following week. Two of the three replacement influent pumps have been received, with installation expected to begin the following week. The facility was also awaiting delivery of HVAC equipment for four units being purchased. Mr. Piazza clarified that the previously reported budget discrepancy for the energy audit was due to his oversight, as only $75,000 had been allocated in the capital budget rather than the intended amount. He concluded that all other plant operations were performing well.

7.) CORRESPONDENCE: 476 HOPMEADOW STREET REQUEST

Previously addressed in earlier discussion during the meeting.

8.) OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES – POSSIBLE APPROVAL

Mr. Dragulski made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Ms. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9.) ADJOURN

Mr. Dragulski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brignac seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.