

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
WATER DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE
11/13/14**

APPROVED MINUTES

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The meeting of the Town of East Hampton's Water Development Task Force was held at the Colchester / East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Room on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:45 P.M.

SANDRA M. WHEELER, TC
EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424

In Attendance: Mark Barmasse, Ralph Nesci, Tim Csere, Meg Wright and Vincent Susco Jr.

Not in Attendance: Don Coolican, Ted Hintz and Rowland Rux

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barmasse called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: September 11, 2014

Upon motion by Mr. Csere seconded by Ms. Wright the member's unanimously approved the Meeting Minutes as drafted from the September 11, 2014.

3. Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates

Upon review of the distributed proposed WDTF 2015 Meeting Dates a discussion was had about possible holiday and/or Old Homes Days conflicts with the July 9th meeting Date. It was decided that a July Regular Meeting would not be scheduled and a Special meeting will be established if needed.

The discussion was concluded with a motion by Mr. Csere seconded by Ms. Wright to accept the proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule with the exception of the July 9th meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Continued Discussion of a Municipal Water System:

The discussion began with Mr. Susco addressing the 2 takeaways he had from the 9/11 meeting.

- 1) Mr. Susco shared his findings on the amount of taxes currently paid by Public Water Companies to the Town of East Hampton. Connecticut Water Company (CWC) pays

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the Town just under \$10,000 with Aquarion Water Company (Aquarion) paying significantly less. While he did look to comparing these findings against taxes CWC pays in other towns (Windsor Locks and Plymouth), he did not receive information back from his inquiries to date.

- 2) Mr. Susco also shared information he ascertained through discussions with CWC and Aquarion and stated that he is compiling a "Facts Sheet" that will assist in future discussions. He went on to mention that there could be less benefit/profit if we were to look into selling assets that were purchased with the assistance of STAG Grants (55% paid by the State). Both companies spoken to confirmed interest in operating East Hampton's water systems but not necessarily interested in "taking over" East Hampton's existing water systems and building the necessary additions/connections. Mr. Susco continued by raising a possible issue with the fact that the existing water systems are not stand alone because the treatment plant for the Village Center is located in the basement of Center School and for Memorial School are in the basement of the School.

In summary, Mr. Susco confirmed for Chairman Barmasse that while the Public Water Companies would entertain the opportunity to be contracted to operate our Town water systems, they have shown little interest to date in financing and building of a system for our Town. There was interest expressed in purchasing wells, property and the diversion permit in order to enhance the existing footprint but not expand. This could result in the Town building what is needed in the Village Center and purchasing a connection to Spice Hill from the Public Water Companies. Mr. Susco will continue discussions and will gather additional information for the Fact Sheet.

Jeff Jylkka, East Hampton Director of Finance, attended the meeting in order to present the requested financial assessment and bonding options. He shared an electronic financial model that would allow for different scenarios and corresponding impacts to be researched by the Task Force and shared a view of current and projected (High School project) Town Debt over the next 25 years and informed the Task Force that we never really want debt more than 10% of the Town's Operating Budget. He also shared some websites (emma.msrb.org and StandardandPoors.com) that could assist in financial research and educated the Task Force on different types of bonds.

The discussion concluded with Mr. Susco distributing 2 items:

- 1) A copy of a Memo from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dated 10/28/14, verifying the return of remaining funds, from the FY2006 STAG Earmark Grant that was appropriated to the Town of East Hampton for water infrastructure improvements, to the U.S. Treasury. This closed out the discussion from the 9/11/14 WDTF meeting where Mr. Susco confirmed with the Task Force that there was no viable option to utilize the balance at this time.
- 2) A map of Connecticut, distributed by the Department of Public Health, outlining the boundaries of the Public Water Supply Management Areas. He reminded the Task

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Force that at their first meeting they drafted a request for WUCC realignment and East Hampton now falls within the Central Corridor as requested.

Action Items

1. Mr. Jylkka to share electronic version of finance model with Task Force.
2. Mr. Susco to complete a draft of the Public Water Company Facts Sheet for the December Meeting.

6. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Nesci, seconded by Mr. Csere and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Bafumi
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by unanimous vote of the Water Development Task Force on December 11, 2014.