Chairman Thomas Ruby called the Regular Meeting/Virtual Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and explained that the public is welcome to email comments to Wpcacomments@southwindsor-ct.gov.

A. Roll Call

Members Present: Thomas Ruby, Erik Dabrowski, Steven King, Jr., Toby Lewis, Ashwatha Narayana, and Stephen Wagner

Members Absent: Carol Fletterick

Alternates Present: Vicki Paliulis, and Shawn Jacobaccio

Staff Present: Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control
Scott Roberts, Assistant Town Manager

B. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. May 5, 2020 Public Hearing
2. May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Stephen Wagner and seconded by Mr. Steven King, Jr.

Mr. Dabrowski joined the meeting at this time 7:02 pm

The motion carried unanimously.

C. New Business

1. Pump Station Upgrade – Design Contract Resolution (Decision)

Mr. Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control explained that included with the Agenda was a Resolution that needs to be done in an effort to obtain Clean Water Fund loans for the Pump Station Upgrades project (see Exhibit A). Also included with the Agenda was a Summary of the Scope of Work for design services related to this project (see Exhibit B). This is a pre-outline of what’s been negotiated in terms if they come to an agreement and nothing has been signed yet, said Mr. Manfre. However, this portion has
been submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for their approval; they require a minimum of 90 days review period. Mr. Manfre explained that he’s seeking approval of the resolution now in an effort to be ready for the next step. The WPCA is not meeting in July or August, so if DEEP get their review and approval prior to the WPCA meeting in September, Mr. Manfre will be able to proceed.

Motion for authorizing a Resolution to obtain Clean Water Funds financing for Water Pollution abatement facilities, Clark Street, Benedict Drive and Pleasant Valley Pump Stations.

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the South Windsor Water Pollution Control Authority to contract with the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Arcadis U.S. Inc. to finance, design and engineer improvements to the Clark Street, Benedict Drive, and Pleasant Valley Pump Stations; and

WHEREAS the operational framework of the South Windsor Water Pollution Control Authority provides for the Town Manager to execute such contracts;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute said contracts on behalf of the South Windsor Water Pollution Control Authority and to complete such other documents that may be required by the state. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts.

A discussion ensued whereby Mr. Ashwatha Narayana asked what the need of the WPCA is giving authorization for the Town Manager to sign the document when the document can be signed by the Authority. Chairman Thomas Ruby responded that the arrangements between the WPCA and the Council are that the Town Manager is the signatory. The Chairman can sign also if he’s available. However, the normal course of the business is for the Town Manager to execute all the documents. The requirement of the resolution is from the State of CT DEEP; they need a resolution on record from the WPCA authorizing the signatory. Mr. Narayana expressed that he didn’t think that the State can tell the WPCA to make the Town Manager to sign. The WPCA could sign the document and there’s no need for the Town Manger to get involved. That’s not correct, expressed Chairman Ruby. Mr. Toby Lewis asked if not being correct is a fact or just the way the Authority have been operating. Chairman Ruby responded that it is a fact that the organizing documents for the WPCA back in 1982 setup the arrangements for the Town Manager to be the signatory. The Authority has to authorize the Town Manager to enter the contract on their behalf and said authorizing resolution is the Authority asking the Town Manager to proceed to sign.

Mr. Toby Lewis explained that the proposed resolution states that the WPCA is authorizing the Town Manager to sign on their behalf, however, the WPCA doesn’t even know what he’s signing. He asked, “are we just here for using up some time and community work and rubber stamping or to actually get involved and try to do things which will make the WPCA more efficient and operating for the Town”. Mr. Lewis expressed that he feels that sometimes they just say “yes, yes, yes” to everything because
the machine is already operating so they rubber stamp it. What we are really doing, asked Mr. Lewis. Chairman Ruby explained that what the WPCA is proceeding with is the plan to pursue loans through the State to fund the improvements of the pump stations. As a requirement to proceed with the loan application the Authority needs to sign off some documents and those documents need to be authorized by the WPCA. He explained that the proposed resolution is the authorization to allow the Town Manager to process the application for the loan to enter into those contracts with the State; the State requires that there be an authorizing resolution as part of this process.

Mr. Stephen Wagner explained that this is exactly the way the Town Council operates. The Mayor nor no member of the Town Council signs contracts. They are signed by the Town Manager with the authorization from the Town Council and the Board of Education. Mr. Ashwatha Naraya disagreed with Mr. Wagner and said that the WPCA is a separate organization from the Town Council and Board of Education and they don’t need the State authorization to proceed with the loan. The WPCA can sign the loan application themselves without the Town Manager. Chairman Ruby responded that he can sign the application on behalf of the WPCA, however, we will still need an authorizing resolution to do that. Also, these are the arrangements that were set up when the Authority was established and this is the most efficient way to do business.

There was no further discussion on this matter.

The motion was made by Mr. Stephen Wagner and seconded by Mr. Steven King, Jr. The motion passed with 5 in favor (Thomas Ruby, Erik Dabrowski, Steven King, Jr., Toby Lewis, and Stephen Wagner). Mr. Ashwatha Narayana opposed.

D. Communications and Reports

1. Superintendent Report

Included with the Agenda was a report from Mr. Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control (see Exhibit C). Mr. Tony Manfre pointed out the following items:

Public Works Week: Mr. Manfre reported that the week of May 18, 2020 marked Public Works Week and each year the South Windsor Public Works Department recognizes an employee, business partner and a citizen or citizen group who have help forge a positive and creative work environment for the employees of the Town. Mr. Michael Wood, WPCA Operator III, received the Richard Boudreault Award. This award recognized an employee(s) who demonstrate one or more of Richard Boudreault’s qualities as the former Facility Manager/Assistant to the Director of Public Works.

Miller Road Benefit Assessment: Mr. Manfre reported that sewer benefit assessments for the 11 properties on Miller Road were filed April 28, 2020. Aggrieved property owners have 21 days from the filing date to appeal the assessments. May 19, 2020 was the deadline to file the appeal and notice of appeal have not been received.
Solar Field Project Update: Mr. Manfre read into the record the following: The WPCF’s electric bill is being paid for by credits generated from a solar field known as NorCap South in East Windsor. There are two new projects that are being constructed that the Town hopes to benefit from. The WPCF is accumulating more credits than what are being consumed, therefore, it has been determined to reallocate the treatment plant’s credit allocation to other town buildings and eventually generate electricity credits for the WPCF from one of the other solar projects. This will take place in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. There have been delays in the project due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was no further report from Mr. Manfre.

Mr. Stephen Wagner explained that recently send an article to Mr. Manfre regarding testing sewer water for the presence of viruses, in this case of Corona Virus. Is been done in others parts of the country. The idea is to obtain a population measure of how much virus is out there because it can only be measured at some point in the water pollution control facility process. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Manfre if he’s been able to look into that. Mr. Manfre responded that he had applied for the program shortly before he actually got the article from Mr. Wagner. However, he didn’t hear anything for a while so he reached out to the person in charge. It was a grant program through a company that was going to volunteer their services to get samples and tests out of the wastewater in different facilities around the region. However, that program filled up quickly so Mr. Manfre was unable to get on the grant portion of it. They did say that they are planning to open that service as a paid service so that others can do it too. Mr. Manfre will discuss this matter with the Health Department to determine their interest level on this matter.

E. Public Participation (Items not on the agenda)

None

F. Bills, Change Orders, Disbursements

None

G. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business. However, Chairman Ruby reported that at the end of the WPCA regular meeting in May a point was raised that the Town Council was providing a hazardous pay stipend to employees and the question was raised as to what impact that would have on the WPCA budget. It was clarified that the funds used for that stipend will be from the Town budget and there will be no impact on the WPCA budget. That brings that matter to closure, said Chairman Ruby. He also explained that he had a conversation with the Town Mayor and the Town Manager to encourage more communication on such matters so that members of the Authority are not taken by surprise by such things.

H. Executive Session

None

I. Adjournment
Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm

The motion was made by Mr. Toby Lewis and seconded by Mr. Erik Dabrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ether Diaz, Recording Secretary