

1 **DRAFT**

2 **SPECIAL MEETING**

3 **Wallingford Public Utilities Commission**

4 **Room 315**

5 **Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

6 **Wallingford Town Hall**

7 **45 South Main Street**

8 **WORKSHOP – DRAFT FACILITY PLAN FOR THE WALLINGFORD WASTEWATER**
9 **TREATMENT PLANT**

10 Tuesday, June 26, 2018

11 6:30 p.m.

12 **MINUTES**

13 **PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Beaumont; Commissioners Patrick Birney and Joel Rinebold;
14 Director Richard Hendershot; Water and Sewer Divisions General Manager Neil Amwake;
15 Business Manager William Phelan; Mayor William Dickinson; Recording Secretary Cynthia Kleist;
16 Dennis Setzko, P.E., Project Manager and Ken Bradstreet, P.E., Design Engineer, both with
17 AECOM; Public: Steve Gale; Don Couch; Larry Zabrowski; Councilor John LeTourneau; State
18 Rep. Mary Mushinsky; Matt Zabierek, Record-Journal; Luther Turmelle, New Haven Register.

19 Chairman Beaumont called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was
20 recited.

21 Mr. Amwake said staff has been working on this draft Facility Plan since last summer. He noted
22 the two combined reports total approximately 240 pages, with about 600 pages of supporting
23 data. Mr. Setzko went over the need for the project with a PowerPoint presentation. He said
24 the concept is to determine what plant upgrades are needed to achieve present and future
25 wastewater treatment needs; evaluate adequacy of existing plant structures and make
26 recommendations for improvements; ensure the sewage disposal and growth needs of the
27 Town are met for the present and future flows and pollutant loadings over a 20-year period,
28 which Mr. Setzko said is the standard planning period and extends to 2041.

29 Mr. Setzko addressed the question of why this project is currently needed. He said it is to
30 address a regulatory requirement. He noted there is a funding deadline that is associated with
31 some of the work being done here and there is a need to do the project, pointing out the

1 current plant was completed in the late-1980s. He noted a Facility Plan is typically undertaken
2 every 20 years. Mr. Setzko pointed out that because of the funding requirements and the
3 deadline, this project was approached in two phases; Phase 1 (Fast Track) where the funding
4 is, involves phosphorus removal and related equipment and Phase 2 which is the assessment of
5 the remaining plant processes and nitrogen removal improvements. Mr. Setzko went over the
6 plant background noting that current flows are 5.1 MGD, but pointed out the flows have gone
7 up to 9 MGD. He said 19.1 MGD has been seen for a one-day period. Mr. Setzko said the plant
8 has experienced flows well over 20 MGD. He noted that by 2041, there is a modest increase;
9 the daily flow will go up, mostly infill development within the system. He noted some of the
10 increase will be because of modest growth in town on the commercial and industrial side. Mr.
11 Setzko said the maximum daily flow which is a design criterion doesn't really change from the
12 current to the future.

13 Mr. Setzko went over the deadlines: Dec, 15, 2017 – retain a Consultant to prepare the study,
14 design and oversight necessary to achieve phosphorus limits set in the NPDES permit; Mr.
15 Setzko said this was completed; October 31, 2018 – submit engineering report. Mr. Setzko
16 noted this is a week or two away from being completed; July 1, 2019 is the funding deadline.
17 He said the requirements for phosphorus projects that they are eligible for 50% project grant if
18 there is a construction agreement with a General Contractor as of July 1, 2019. He said this will
19 be a scramble to meet this deadline and why there was a Phase 1 and Phase 2 for the Facility
20 Plan, to move one portion of the project along faster than the other; April 1, 2020 (no later
21 than), begin construction of the phosphorus removal project; and April 1, 2022, is the
22 regulatory deadline for meeting the phosphorus limits.

23 Mr. Setzko noted the two important deadlines are July 1, 2019, the funding deadline and April
24 1, 2022, the regulatory deadline for meeting the phosphorus limits.

25 Mr. Hendershot emphasized that it will be a sprint to make the July 1, 2019 deadline. He said
26 the schedule left calls for approximately 15 months of design work in six months, emphasizing
27 this has to be completed. Mr. Hendershot noted that the schedule assumes that DEEP will take
28 half of the specified time to review what Wallingford turns in. He said with all of this, we barely
29 meet the July 1, 2019 date. He said there is no time to do anything but to do everything
30 possible to meet this deadline. Mr. Hendershot said we are past any float in the schedule. Mr.
31 Setzko pointed out that normal a design is 15-18 months, and we are down to six months left.
32 Mr. Hendershot said some work has been done. Mr. Setzko said there is a plan in place, but a
33 lot can go awry.

34 Mr. Setzko showed an aerial photo of the treatment plant which he said was constructed in
35 1988. He there is a lot of infrastructure built into this plant. He showed what needs to be done
36 for tertiary phosphorus removal. Mr. Setzko pointed out where the flow enters the plant which
37 he said was through the pre-treatment area. He said eventually all the treated flow empties out
38 to the Quinnipiac River. Mr. Setzko went over the Phase 1 treatment evaluation. He said there

1 was piloting of three phosphorus technologies and was done on a small-scale plant. He noted
2 that because Wallingford is an RBC (Rotating Biological Contactor) plant, it is different than of
3 the majority of other wastewater treatment plants and piloting was suggested and approved by
4 DEEP. Mr. Setzko said existing unit processes were also evaluated because if there is a new
5 phosphorus treatment process, it may affect the operation of some of the other associated
6 processes. Mr. Setzko said the RBC process will remain because it is physically in good condition
7 and alternatives are expensive. He said if the RBC's weren't kept, there would have to be a \$51
8 million upgrade to convert to an activated sludge treatment process.

9 Mr. Setzko said many wastewater treatment plant facilities and processes will be repurposed
10 and reused during this project. Mr. Setzko went over some of the additional work which will
11 come with the phosphorus treatment project including fine screening at the headworks. He said
12 an additional secondary settling tank will be constructed because a lot of solids are being added
13 to the process because there are current difficulties handling the solids. He said an anaerobic
14 basin was also included to improve biological phosphorus removal with the goal to reduce
15 dependence on chemical phosphorus removal. Mr. Setzko said a secondary pump station will
16 also be needed in order to pump up to the tertiary phosphorus treatment process, along with a
17 new ultraviolet disinfection system noting the current one gets flooded out. He said the worn
18 out mechanism will be replaced. Mr. Setzko said an increase in electrical service capacity is
19 needed, so additional power will be brought in, as well as a larger generator in an outdoor
20 enclosure. He said these processes require a lot of information to come back to operate
21 properly which is why a SCADA system will be installed.

22 Mr. Setzko showed an overlay slide of the new Phase I improvements which he placed on top
23 of the existing facility. He noted the fine screening will be inside the existing headworks building
24 and the anaerobic tank will be constructed adjacent to the existing primary settling tanks. He
25 pointed out the location of the additional secondary settling tanks, the secondary pump station
26 which will pump up to the tertiary process building. He showed where the electrical work will be
27 performed in the building, as well as the location of the gravity thickener mechanism.

28 Mr. Setzko said this was the scale of the phosphorus project which is what the team is striving
29 for by the July 1, 2019 and the April 1, 2022 deadline. Mr. Rinebold asked the purpose of the
30 gravity thickener mechanism. Mr. Setzko explained this is the way to thicken solids. He said
31 there is currently a gravity belt thickener at the plant, but it is from 1988. Mr. Setzko said in
32 addition, more phosphorus sludge will be brought in and it will be thicker, so a heavy duty
33 thickener is needed. Mr. Zabrowski asked if there were any updates of the existing sludge
34 handling equipment. Mr. Setzko said this would be addressed later on in his presentation.

35 Mr. Setzko discussed the Phase 2 project, which he noted DEEP will need to approve. He said
36 the entire Facility Plan needs to be looked at in order to obtain the funding. He said all existing
37 treatment plant processes and structures were reviewed as well as a detailed evaluation of the
38 solids handling needs. Mr. Setzko said process modeling was performed to evaluate potential

1 improvements to nitrogen and biological phosphorus removal. In addition, an evaluation of
2 HVAC and lighting systems, communications, security and fire alarms and electrical and
3 instrumentation/SCADA systems was undertaken.

4 Mr. Setzko went over the conclusions of Phase 2. He noted the solids handling system is at the
5 end of their useful life. He said that anaerobic digestion as currently practiced is not cost
6 effective. He noted that the existing digester tanks will be reused to store sludge; the 1988
7 dewatering facilities will be replaced with screw presses and newer technology and the sludge
8 pumping and polymer systems will be replaced.

9 Chairman Beaumont asked why the current anaerobic digestion system is currently not effective
10 and asked what should be done. Mr. Setzko said this process would be done without the
11 anaerobic digestion system. He said this new process will be more efficient without the
12 anaerobic digestion which he noted was the way of the future. Mr. Rinebold asked about the
13 current digester tanks. Mr. Setzko said there are three large round digester tanks. Mr.
14 Bradstreet noted the covers have to be replaced which increases the cost along with the piping
15 and electrical equipment. Mr. Setzko said the polymer handling system also has to be replaced.

16 He said the purpose of the anaerobic tank is the release the phosphorus. He said this is a
17 biological process. He said the process will try to be done as biologically as possible which will
18 not cost anything. He noted the only other way to remove phosphorus is by implementing
19 chemicals which is costly.

20 Mr. Zabrowski asked about sludge dewatering. Mr. Setzko said the sludge will be dewatered in
21 the same type of way; solids will be blended before they hit the screw presses. Mr. Bradstreet
22 noted the screw presses are much more efficient and can run 24/7, using a lot less power. He
23 said the current belt presses require a lot of operator attention. Mr. Zabrowski asked about
24 centrifuge. Mr. Bradstreet pointed out that centrifuge is more suited for larger plants and
25 typically use a lot of power. Mr. Zabrowski asked about blowers and fine screening throughout
26 the plant and if they were being updated. Mr. Bradstreet said there are two blowers in front of
27 the RBC's that are hardly used because they are not needed.

28 Mr. Rinebold asked Mr. Setzko to define polymer system. Mr. Setzko said this is the way that
29 sludge can be dewatered. He said this is a chemical addition which is now being done at the
30 plant. Mr. Setzko said that modeling shows that total nitrogen removal and better biological
31 phosphorus removal will occur when the primary tanks are off line. He said this can't be done
32 all the time, but when it is implemented it is more cost effective. Mr. Setzko said in order to do
33 this; the fine screening was added to Phase 1. He said the primary tanks will be needed in the
34 winter months and during higher flows. Mr. Bradstreet noted that the last few weeks, the plant
35 operators have been able to get the phosphorus down to 0.7 mg/L without the use of alum. Mr.
36 Bradstreet said the Wallingford plant is very unusual.

1 Mr. Setzko went over more conclusions, noting the laboratory is undersized based on current
2 standards and the Administration Building needs updating. He said security systems are lacking
3 and in-plant communications are spotty and need upgrading. He said additional work is also
4 needed on the electrical distribution system because motor control centers (MCCs) go back to
5 1988 which will be part of the Phase 1 upgrade. Mr. Setzko said this needs to be done because
6 the Phase 1 part is to bring the big power in. He said there is concrete deterioration at the RBCs
7 and paving that need to be addressed. He went over Phase 2 work which includes an addition
8 to the Administration Building for expansion of the laboratory, SCADA updates, HVAC upgrades,
9 RBC area repairs, mechanism and equipment replacement and solids handling. Mr. Setzko said
10 he believes there should be an RBC plan of replacement. He noted staff has kept the 30-year
11 old RBC's in good shape. He said money should be set aside each year to replace the RBC
12 components as part of a prudent asset management plan Mr. Bradstreet noted that only one
13 shaft has broken in the RBC's in 30 years.

14 Mr. Setzko went over the Phase 2 schedule and said that for 2023-2025, there should be solids
15 handling improvements and for 2024-2026 there should be plant wide electrical, SCADA and
16 instrumentation systems upgrades. He said replacement of equipment and systems can go to
17 2033. Mr. Setzko went over the Phase 1 cost estimates. He said there are adjustments from
18 the project presentation given on March 15, 2018. He noted some costs went up because of the
19 building over the UV system; increasing the number of RAS pumps from six to eight; a more
20 robust gravity thickener mechanism than originally anticipated and additional yard piping. He
21 said the cost estimates are being refined as the project moves forward. Mr. Setzko pointed out
22 Phase 1 now includes the fine screens based on the modeling results. He said a project
23 contingency has also been included.

24 Mr. Hendershot the workers will do a good job, but they are not going to be able to do the
25 same job in six months they would have done in 15 months, so there needs to be contingency.
26 Chairman Beaumont said any major construction project should have contingency. Mayor
27 Dickinson said he is concerned that what is being stated is that the estimates can't be relied
28 upon. Mr. Hendershot said the contingency was larger than it might otherwise be might be
29 because of a time factor because there is less time to run down the possible unknowns. Mr.
30 Setzko said he thinks he understands what the project consists of, but there are a number of
31 factors at the planning level that would be flushed out if there was more time. He said there is
32 an area where the phosphorus project will be constructed at a location where at one time there
33 was retention basins. He said money was put into this project for the basin removals. He said
34 besides project unknowns, the project contingency addresses the bid climate, noting there are
35 multiple projects being bid at the same time.

36 He said the cost estimating people have said things are starting to change in the labor and
37 materials markets. He said there is also a lack of float in the schedule which has to be
38 addressed. He said we will be backed up against the schedule wall in the early part of spring
39 2019. He said there will be no time to redesign or address any unforeseen issues. He said an

1 agreement has to be executed July 1, 2019. He said there is no time to adjust. Chairman
2 Beaumont asked when the RFP would go out. Mr. Setzko said the RFP would go out the end of
3 February, early March. He said there needs to be DEEP approval before the agreement with the
4 contractor can be executed. Mr. Setzko said a number of factors that need to be addressed
5 immediately. Mayor Dickinson addressed the comment there is not enough money to cover the
6 bid. He said we typically would not have the money allocated prior to the bid. Mr. Hendershot
7 noted this would be done differently, by a funding ordinance. He said DEEP will approve this
8 and this will be a combination of making the grant funds available and executing the loan on
9 the balance. Mr. Hendershot said he met with Mr. Amwake and Mr. Phelan to flush out our
10 understanding of the process and review it with the Comptroller. He emphasized the project
11 cost will not be reflected in the Sewer Division's annual budget, but through a funding
12 ordinance. Mayor Dickinson said he agreed but noted we typically do not create funds prior to
13 having a bid process. He said this would counter not having enough money at the point we
14 have a bid process. He said the process is that we may have something appropriated. Mr.
15 Hendershot said the funding ordinance will react to the bids, not the other way around. Mayor
16 Dickinson said some towns put the money out first and then ask for bid prices, but Wallingford
17 doesn't do this.

18 Mr. Phelan pointed out there is a timeline laid out based upon on a bid opening date which
19 would provide the Town with an appropriate amount of time to develop a funding ordinance,
20 get it approved and a contract signed. Mr. Setzko went over funding sources, noting that for
21 Phase 1 work, there is a 50% State grant funding for phosphorus related items; 30% on
22 nutrient removal items that may be nitrogen related; 20% grant on other eligible items and a
23 2% 20-year loan on the remainder. Mr. Setzko said the Phase 2 work will be funded through
24 the Sewer Division's capital budget, and through some utility incentives. Mr. Setzko showed the
25 incentives for the Phase 1 project. Mr. Birney asked about the 2% 20-year State loan on the
26 remainder of the work, wondering if the Town's non-grant portion would be eligible for
27 financing at the same rate. Mr. Hendershot said everything that isn't covered by the grant is
28 covered by the 20-year 2%. Mr. Setzko explained that whatever falls outside the grant falls into
29 that 2% loan. Mr. Zabrowski pointed out that with the utility incentives, money is being taken
30 out of one pocket [WED] and putting it into the other [WSD]. Mr. Hendershot said this is money
31 we are required by Statute to collect and apply to energy efficiency projects.

32 Mr. Setzko spoke about the grant funding distribution. He pointed out there is 50%, 30% and
33 20% funding and what is left over will be the loan. Mr. Amwake noted this is based on our
34 estimates, but DEEP has the final say. Mr. Zabrowski asked if an effort was made to bring
35 everything into the 50% area. Mr. Amwake noted that we were able to justify the piloting
36 because we have the RBC's with pin floc. Mr. Setzko said the only things that are fuzzy are the
37 electrical upgrade. Mr. Zabrowski asked about the gravity thickener and if this could be a part
38 of the 50% grant. Mr. Setzko said this wouldn't be a part of the 50% grant because a
39 mechanism is being replaced. Mr. Amwake said we want to be a little conservative rather than

1 overpromise and under deliver. Mr. Setzko said the argument going to DEEP may be different.
2 Mr. Zabrowski said it seems a lot of these items could go under the 50% grant. Mr. Setzko said
3 we will make the case to DEEP. Mayor Dickinson said noted that with school projects, the Town
4 is told they will receive 51% reimbursement and usually ends up with 47%.

5 Chairman Beaumont pointed out this is revenue and you estimate revenue low and expenses
6 high which he noted was good budgeting. Phase 1 Project Estimated Costs – Total Estimated
7 Construction Costs – Current Capital Cost Estimate - \$42,694,000; Previous Capital Cost
8 Estimate - \$39,039,000; Engineering Design Services – Current Capital Cost Estimate -
9 \$3,400,000 – Previous Capital Cost Estimate - \$3,400,000; Construction Phase Services –
10 Current Capital Cost Estimate - \$4,600,000; Previous Capital Cost Estimate - \$4,600,000;
11 Project Contingency of 10% Total – Current Capital Cost Estimate - \$5,069,000; Previous
12 Capital Cost Estimate - \$0; Total Estimated Cost Phase 1 – Current Capital Cost Estimate -
13 \$55,763,000; Previous Capital Cost Estimate - \$47,039,000. Mr. Setzko noted that we are
14 looking at \$17.8 million in grants for the Phase 1 project and that amounts to approximately
15 41.7% of the project being grant eligible. He said this percentage was applied to the
16 professional services as well as the project contingency. Mr. Setzko said he estimates the grant
17 portion to be \$23.2 million to \$23.3 million. He said if this is deducted from the \$55.7 million
18 project, this is a \$32.5 million loan. He said currently the grant funding of this portion is looking
19 to be in the \$23 million range.

20 Mr. Rinebold asked where the State money is coming from. Mr. Setzko said some of the money
21 is from EPA but a lot of it is via the State. He said this 50% grant is special legislation and is
22 only for 11 projects. He said the Town will be working at a 2% at \$32.5 million. Mr. Setzko
23 spoke about Phase 2 estimated costs (calculated to midpoint of project execution year at 3.5%
24 inflation per year). He noted Item #1 Solids Handling (year 2024) at a Capital Cost of
25 \$9,707,000; Electrical Upgrades (2025) at a Capital Cost of \$2,605,000; SCADA completion
26 (2025) at a Capital Cost of \$1,391,000; Administration Building and Lab (2028) at a Capital Cost
27 of \$3,513,000; Lighting, Fire Alarm, Security and Communications (2028) - Capital Cost -
28 \$2,643,000; HVAC (2028) – Capital Cost \$2,315,000; Equipment Replacement (2032) – Capital
29 Cost \$7,203,000. Mr. Setzko said the costs were inflated to these years, not the current dollars
30 – Total Estimated Construction Costs - \$29,377,000; Engineering Services – (included in
31 above); Project Contingency of 5% (\$1,469,000); Total Estimated Cost Phase 2 - \$30, 846,000.

32 Mr. Setzko wrapped up the project noting the plant itself has had some upgrades but not a lot
33 since the 1988 completion. He said the grit facilities have been partially upgraded within the
34 past two years; Nitrogen removal processes were upgraded in 2005; most existing systems and
35 equipment are near the end of their useful life; many of the upgrades necessary in Phase 1 will
36 be eligible for the 50% grant and utility incentives; packaging of other projects in future years
37 will help balance the rate impacts.

38 **End of Formal Presentation**

1 **Discussion**

2 Mayor Dickinson said he believed from the presentation that it's not 50% funding on the total
3 project. . Mr. Hendershot said the blended result would be 41.7% grant funded, based on our
4 estimate. Mr. Setzko said the grant is providing \$23 million. Chairman Beaumont said \$17
5 million is for construction and the rest is for professional services and contingency which would
6 go towards construction. Mr. LeTourneau noted the estimated project total for Phase 1 would
7 be \$55 million and said on page 24, the estimated cost for Phase 2 would be \$30 million.
8 Chairman Beaumont said that cost would be spread over time. Mr. Phelan noted that some of
9 the Phase 2 Capital Improvements can be included in the normal Capital Budget from the Sewer
10 Division for that time period. He said this wasn't necessarily a bond that will be issued but part
11 of the rate structure as well. Mayor Dickinson asked if there were estimates in the increase in
12 operating costs. Mr. Setzko said he has these estimates, but they weren't presented at this
13 workshop. Mayor Dickinson said we need to know what the rate impact would be for various
14 components including what the operating cost increase would be. Mayor Dickinson said this
15 information needs to be available for discussion.

16 Mr. Hendershot pointed out that for the upcoming fiscal year budget, the Sewer Division has
17 funds to hire a Consultant to do their version of a financial forecast and a cost of service study
18 and then out of that there will be draft rates needed to fund the project. Mayor Dickinson said
19 this is needed before entering into discussions regarding moving on with this project. Mr.
20 Hendershot noted that study won't support this schedule. Mayor Dickinson said the sewer use is
21 75% of water consumption. He asked if a lot more money is needed for sewer would the water
22 rate increase. Mr. Hendershot said the sewer rate is independent from the water rate. Mr.
23 Zabrowski noted that because Wallingford doesn't have the gravity system, there will have to
24 be a secondary pump station. He said the electric usage will be substantial.

25 Mayor Dickinson asked for a rough estimate on the rate impact. Mr. Hendershot said this could
26 be done based on certain numbers. Mr. Phelan said we could develop a rate impact on the
27 treatment plant upgrade itself without consideration of other infrastructure, pump stations and
28 other capital improvements that may be included in the cost of service study. He said to take
29 these numbers and develop a rate impact; this could be done, based on just the wastewater
30 treatment plant upgrade. Mayor Dickinson said a new huge project is being undertaken with
31 declining revenues. Mr. Phelan noted this is different; Wallingford is under a State requirement
32 to get this done. Mayor Dickinson said the reality is that the same people pay for this. He
33 pointed out there are mandates that are inappropriate given the cost. He said it should be
34 made known this is just plain unfair. He noted this is not a public health issue; it is just a "nice
35 to have."

36 Mr. Zabrowski pointed out that for one mile of treatment of water; we are paying \$30 million.
37 He asked if there was any effort to go to DEEP. Mr. Hendershot said the matter was floated but
38 was received in a chilly manner. He said the Town doesn't have the bandwidth to fight on two

1 fronts. Mr. Zabrowski said there is one mile of untreated mile of water with untreated nitrogen
2 that is a problem out of seven months of the year. He said the rest of time it isn't a problem
3 and this doesn't make economic sense. He said DEEP should be put on notice and the Town
4 should get an exemption. Mayor Dickinson said there is always a possibility of sending a letter
5 to DEEP and seeing what their response is. Mr. Zabrowski said there is no economic
6 rationalization to this, but for one mile of treating water, could there be an exemption or an
7 extension. Mr. Hendershot said there has already been one extension, one year added to the
8 time frame a few years ago and the number we needed to hit based on a particular flow was
9 changed. Mr. Zabrowski said he would like to see a statement that said the Town did its due
10 diligence and is this worth it for the Town and State residents to treat one mile of water. Chair
11 Beaumont said this is a valid point. State Rep. Mushinsky asked if the deadline would be met to
12 get the additional funding. She noted the extra money is time sensitive.

13 Chairman Beaumont said he anticipates this deadline will be met. Mr. Hendershot said the
14 engineering design time has been cut in half and expects DEEP to do the same and even with
15 this, the Town will barely meet the July 1, 2019 deadline. He said there is no time for pause
16 and delays. Mr. Hendershot said the different between hitting at 50% and at 30% is
17 significant. He said the estimated blended grant rate would go down from almost 42% to
18 almost 22%. Mr. Phelan said this would result in a loss of a little over \$8 million in grant
19 funding.

20 Mr. Zabrowski pointed out that numbers as high as this has very little benefit. He said it would
21 be worth writing a letter to DEEP stating that the Town is trying to comply, but it is going to
22 cost \$30 million to do this item for seven months of the year and can the Town get an
23 exemption. He noted that if the Town was a mile down the road, it would get an exemption or
24 if the Town was North Haven, they would get an exemption.

25 Rep. Mushinsky said this is the law and the towns on the Quinnipiac River have to obey the law;
26 they are not going to say Southington, Cheshire and Meriden obeys, but Wallingford gets a
27 waiver. Rep. Mushinsky said an alternative plan will be allowed but this plan was a comparable
28 cost to this facility plan. Mr. Hendershot said there would still be a 30-year old plant; nothing
29 would be touched under this alternative plan. He said this plant should have been touched
30 when it was 25 years old. Mr. Hendershot said he didn't know what would happen if the Town
31 didn't do this project in answer to Mr. Zabrowski's question.

32 Mayor Dickinson said the fiscal impact is a vital question. He said he believed there was going
33 to be three rate increases in Meriden over the next year and a half. He said this is just the
34 beginning of this issue and it won't go away. Mayor Dickinson said there needs to be common
35 sense; is this affordable or not. He said we need to have the public understand what the fiscal
36 impact will be. He said someone has to be representing the people. Mayor Dickinson
37 emphasized again that if this was a public health issue, there would be no argument, but he
38 stressed this was not a public health issue. He said between the plant and this, the cost is \$86

1 million at a time when the economy is shot and the State has no money. He asked who will be
2 paying for this and need to each element its due and one of the elements has to be the fiscal
3 impact. Mayor Dickinson said we have to be on record as to what we think about this. Mr.
4 Zabrowski said he didn't believe anyone in the room could debate it's not worth it.

5 Mr. Hendershot said the Town isn't a better town because the phosphorus got done. He pointed
6 out some things are aging that should be touched. He said none of the phosphorus removal is
7 "cost effective" it is an environmental regulation we are all required to meet. He said he is
8 hearing that it is time for the order of magnitude estimate, the impact of this on a typical
9 water/sewer customer. Mr. Zabrowski said he would like to see more work done on the gravity
10 thickener.

11 Mr. Amwake noted that this is a facility plan, and the plant is 29 years old. He said this facility
12 plan goes out to 2036. He noted that with the gravity thickener let it proceed into the design
13 stage to finalize the details. Mr. Amwake said we are getting ahead and this is a plan, and
14 noted this plan should have been done five years ago when the plant was 25 years old. He said
15 this Facility Plan lays out where the Town is going through 2041. Mr. Amwake said this isn't
16 about what the Town is going to do over the next two years. He noted the Director stated the
17 rate impact will affect us in FY 2022-2023 when the loan starts getting paid back.

18 Mr. Amwake said part of the rate study to be undertaken in the next fiscal year which was
19 budgeted is how we bring this online as far as the potential increase to the ratepayers; is it all
20 at once or gradual. He said we have to look to this along with the operating expenses, other
21 capital needs and collection system projects. Mr. Amwake said there are a lot of moving parts.
22 He said it comes down to a cash flow analysis; money is needed for operations, for debt service
23 and other plans. He said this is a facility plan; this isn't a design in concrete and still has to go
24 to DEEP for their review, comments and approval. He pointed out that DEEP may come back to
25 us with questions and noted there is a good relationship with DEEP.

26 Mayor Dickinson pointed out this is a facility plan that is reacting to new requirements. He said
27 it is not just upgrading what we have, it is inclusive of things that we don't have now and the
28 question is what the cost is and what is it doing. Mayor Dickinson said the mandates haven't
29 stopped but the economy has gone downhill and we are acting as if we are operating in the
30 1990's. Mayor Dickinson said there has to be a dose of reality. He said it is no longer the same
31 world. Mr. Zabrowski said this should be pointed out to DEEP and to the Feds that this is an
32 unfair burden. Mr. Bradstreet said the grants under phosphorus are hard to come by and if it
33 weren't for the phosphorus, there wouldn't be any grant available.

34 Rep. Mushinsky pointed out that if Wallingford postpones, other towns are trying to get our
35 grant money. She said if we wait we will be taking chances and lose the money and someone
36 else wins the money. Mr. Zabrowski said if this is submitted and get as much as we can with
37 the 50%, send a letter stating our due diligence will cost us money and it doesn't make sense.

1 He said this was a tough decision. He said there is no economic benefit to anybody to perform
2 this work and we are spending a lot of money and increasing our rates. He noted that in 30
3 years, we will probably have to do something else.

4 Mr. Gale asked if there was any chance of shoving some of Phase 2 into Phase 1. Mr. Amwake
5 said in order to meet the funding deadline; we are focusing on the phosphorus.

6 **END OF DISCUSSION**

7 **ADJOURNMENT**

8 Mr. Birney made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Rinebold seconded the
9 motion which passed unanimously.

10

11 Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

12

13 Cynthia A. Kleist

Joel Rinebold

14 Recording Secretary

Secretary

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