

Draft Minutes for Town of Pawlet Selectboard
Special Meeting
West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Facility
July 6, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Sarah Ludlam
Ed Cleveland

Others in Attendance:

Timothy Hughes-Muse
Emily Cutts, Rutland Herald
Alan Huzinga, Green Mountain Engineering
Jeff Tornyos, Tornyos Operations
Kevin Camara, Green Mountain
Engineering
Wayne Graham, VT Rural Water
David DiDomenico, VT DEC

BACKGROUND: VT Rural Water hired a private contractor to evaluate and report on the problems at the West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Facility. The contractor, Paul Olander, and his report are mentioned during the meeting.

Meeting Called to Order at 10:36 am by Mike Beecher.

The Board and assembled discussed the issues regarding the E.coli violations at the facility. Since 12/11/15 there have been 9 violations and the plant is very close to "Significant Non-compliance" which carries fines along with increased scrutiny. It is the consensus of the group that the cause of the E.coli violations is that too many suspended solids are present in the final stages of the treatment process. The solids are supposed to have settled out earlier in the process, and in the final stages of the treatment, the solids block the UV treatment of the wastewater, allowing bacteria to live.

There is agreement that there will be a stop-gap measure to chemically reduce solids (adding a polymer to bind and settle the solids), while the system is reviewed and the root of the problem is solved.

Mr. Graham stated that Mr. Olander's report indicated the following:

- The problem is biological in nature.
- The system's clarifiers are operating well.
- The problem may lie in the septic tanks.
- The RBCs are bound with solids

To hire Mr. Olander to come into the facility and work to identify the problem, it is estimated to cost \$6,000.

Mr. Beecher stated that the town has invested a lot in the WWTF and expects it to be operational. Mr. Camara stated that Green Mountain Engineering would likely need to work in conjunction with Mr. Olander to solve the problem. Mr. Huzinga stated that GME's goal is to get the WWTF operational for the Town of Pawlet. Mr. Beecher reiterated that responsibility of fix to the WWTF is on Green Mountain Engineering and not the Town of Pawlet.

Mr. Huzinga stated that his team will review the data, review operational procedures, and review Mr. Olander's report and will send a brief report to Mr. Beecher that will outline a plan for proceeding.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Timothy Hughes-Muse

Item 1: Meeting Called to order at 7:03 pm by Sarah Ludlam.

Item 2: Introduction of those present.

Item 3: Review minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting of the Selectboard. Mr. Weeden made motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted and approved.

Item 4: Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors