



# Williamsburg Water/Sewer Commission

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Minutes for Meeting on: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 5:00 PM Held at Town Offices, 141 Main Street, Haydenville Public Present: Donna LaScalia David Veleta	Members:	Present	Not Present
	Eric Cerreta, Chairman	x	
	James Hyslip	x	
	Paul Kennedy	x	
	Roger Bisbee	x	
	Gary Benoit	x	
	Brenda Lessard, Secretary	x	
	Others Present:		
	Bryan Osetek-Oper.	x	
	Dan Banister-Highway	x	

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m.

## **Meeting with Donna LaScalia & Dave Veleta, City of Northampton:**

Donna LaScalia, Northampton DPW Director, and Dave Veleta, who is a city engineer, attended the meeting to address the letter that was sent to the City of Northampton on 11/9/2021. Ms. LaScalia reported that she appreciated the town trying to engage with an engineer to address the discrepancies in the testing procedures and the difference is the testing numbers. She stated the city does not have a position and has no interest in who the town hires. (EC) reported to Ms. LaScalia of the town's troubles trying to hire anyone. Three firms had been contacted and all reported back that the City of Northampton does not want them working for Williamsburg as it is a conflict. Ms. LaScalia stated that determination would come from State Ethics and not the city. She stated the contractor could have a conflict and this was never discussed with the city solicitor or herself. She suggested the town contact the State Ethics division and the town have this conversation with them.

Ms. LaScalia stated that the City cannot enter any of the town's businesses until the new contract is signed. She would like the town to sign the new contract right away. The commission reported to her that they are hesitant to sign the contract until the issues with the testing numbers is resolved. Ms. LaScalia reported that the City is unable to help the town until the contract is signed.

(EC) reported to Ms. LaScalia that the town has been doing testing of the wastewater right in the same location as the City has. The town had tested is all six zones to try and pinpoint where the issue is. The testing brought them right to the pump station on South Main Street. The town sends their wastewater samples to Microbac for testing. The town's numbers have been consistent, but Northampton's numbers seem to be all over the place. Ms. LaScalia noted that she had worked with Bill Turner when the town purchased their sampler. She is very convinced all the town's high numbers are coming from the Brewery and Bread Euphoria. She also questions if there are large milk dumps at Cumberland Farms and Dunkin which can increase the TSS and BOD numbers. Ms. LaScalia noted that milk is one of the worst items for wastewater increases in BOD and TSS.

Eric Cerreta, Chair

James Hyslip

Paul Kennedy

Roger Bisbee

Gary Benoit

Ms. LaScalia also noted that the city does flow based testing and the town does composite sampling. She opined that can make a big difference in the testing results. (EC) reported that the town has been told the standards for wastewater testing is doing composite sampling. He does not see why the two sampling varieties would produce such drastic differences. Both are sampling the same wastewater stream. Mr. Cerreta admitted that the town had taken some of the City's sample and had tested that sample also. There was a discrepancy with the numbers but not as drastic. Ms. LaScalia stated she does not trust Microbac's results. There was a discussion in the sampling standards and whether the sample should be agitated or mildly swirled. Ms. LaScalia reported that her testing is EPA certified and they are inspected by the EPA. Ms. LaScalia recommended that the town and the city split samples. She is willing to send their samples to Microbac at the town's costs for 30 days. There was a discussion of when the towns equipment was last calibrated.

(EC) had some questions for Ms. LaScalia. He asked if the city does all their testing in house, which they do. Mr. Cerreta asked if they test all areas of their own system. Ms. LaScalia reported any industrial customers that have a potential to contaminate their waste stream gets tested. Mr. Cerreta reported that the town has been paying for daily testing since 2017. The town was only being tested twice a week prior to that time. He asked why. Ms. LaScalia reported that the city was seeing being slugs come through in the waste stream which triggered the daily testing. She reported that the slugs smelled like waste that comes from a brewery. (EC) asked is they test the city's breweries. Ms. LaScalia reported that any new brewery is subject to meet with a pre-treatment coordinator and they have a lot of regulations to follow regarding the waste from certain industrial users.

Ms. LaScalia and Mr. Veleta both reported that the variances the town is seeing in the testing is due to the testing procedures. Both claimed that they pull a sample for every 4000 gallons and pulls the same volume for each sample in a 24-hour period which correlates with the flow. Ms. LaScalia and Mr. Valeta stated that the town pulls a sample every 5 minutes with composite testing and that is not correlated with the flow. The results are then converted to pounds.

Ms. LaScalia stated the city maintains their equipment. She noted the tubing was just changed. Their equipment is calibrated every year and the equipment was new in 2020. She did note that the sampling was being done in a swirling area and the test area has been moved off to the side.

(JH) opined that there should be little difference in the tested samples as far as the results go, no matter which collection method is used. He stated the variation is way off in the numbers. He also stated that settling is a part of the sampling and there should be written procedures in place for the sampling. It was noted by Williamsburg that not all the collectors of Northampton's samples do the collection in the same way. Ms. LaScalia stated they follow the sampling procedures from the EPA out of Boston.

(EC) asked if the city can cut back on the frequency of the testing. Ms. LaScalia opined that until the loading is consistently low, the testing will continue daily.

(EC) also reported that there are at least 20% more users of the towns wastewater system than when the original contract was written. He opined that the flow numbers should be adjusted. He reported that in 2008 is when the high loading numbers began.

Ms. LaScalia offered to split the samples and have the samples either be tested in Northampton or Microbac but at Williamsburg's cost. She noted that pre-treatment would help lower the BOD and TSS numbers at the locations that she believes are the culprits (Bread Euphoria and Burgy Brews).

Ms. LaScalia noted that once the town executes the agreement in the new contract, the term of time to revisit the testing frequency is every three months. The town will need to have an average below 300 for the three-month period to decrease the frequency of the testing. She noted it is on page eight of the new contract.

Ms. LaScalia also reported that when she did a visit with Bill Turner to Bread Euphoria, the baffles on the holding tank were caked with flour and fats. She opined they need to pump more often and have the system cleaned monthly.

At this point, Ms. LaScalia and Mr. Veleta left the meeting.

The commission discussed the visit. They did not agree with number variances between the type of testing being done. They noted that Northampton had changed out some of their dirty tubing prior to the meeting. Northampton had also changed the sample collection spot in the pump station. Pretreatment of the wastewater could cost \$500,000 to \$2,000,000.

Motion made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Brenda Lessard, Secretary