

**CITY OF GROTON UTILITIES COMMISSION
/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

September 16, 2020 10:30 a.m.
City of Groton Municipal Building
Council Chambers / Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hedrick called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Mayor Keith Hedrick

Commissioners: Paul Duarte, Jeffrey Godley, George Scully, Robert Zuliani

Staff present: Director of Utilities Ronald A. Gaudet
Executive Administrator to the Director of Utilities, Noemi Walencewicz
Executive Administrative Assistant Maureen French
Accounting Manager Yi Xiang
Director of Finance Ron Yuhas
General Manager-Operations Mark A. Biron
General Manager- Customer Service Tina Daniels (via Zoom)
General Manager Projects and Planning Bruce Kruszewski
Manager Water Division Rick Stevens (via Zoom)
Engineering Manager Randall Surprenant (via Zoom)
Manager of Communications and Community Outreach Dan Bouges
Utility Analytics Manager Aaron Brooks

In response to State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7B “Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Further Suspension or Modification of Statues”, dated March 14, 2020, suspending in-person open meeting requirements, all public meetings will be closed to the public at this time. Public Meetings will be televised in real time on Groton Municipal Television Channel 2 and online. If you wish to address the Commission, please call 860-446-4130 during the Public Communications part of the agenda. In addition, written communication sent to directorsoffice@grotonutilities.com by 9am on the date of the meeting will be read during this portion of the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Godley moved, **Commissioner Scully** seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2020.

Motion carried

3. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Zuliani moved, **Commissioner Duarte** seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending August 2020.

Commissioner Zuliani questioned paragraph 2 of the Groton Utilities monthly financial report, commercial sales and industrial sales, up by 11.2%. Manager Xiang explained there was an error and provided an updated sheet.

Motion carried.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

There were three emails included in the package, and new correspondence from Grant Weaver was handed out during the meeting regarding the Pollution Abatement Facility. The Commission agreed to discuss under old business.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Hedrick read the email submitted by Sam Spano, 300 Thames St., please see attached.

6. REGIONAL WATER UPDATE

Manger Valentini gave an update on the Poquetanuck Cove Interconnection and said the plans were received from the engineer, and Norwich now has the plans to review. Once they respond, it will go to DEEP and DPH for approval and then out to bid.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Manager Xiang reviewed August Monthly Financials.

Electric

Total Electric Revenue for the month of August is 3.2% over budget. Residential Sales and Industrial Non-Manufacturing Sales exceeded the budget by 12.8% and 13.7% respectively. Commercial Sales and Industrial Manufacturing Sales are 9.3% and 5.8% below budget respectively. For the month of August, cooling degrees days are 6% less than last August.

Operation & Maintenance Expenses for August are 35.9% below budget. Net Income of the month is 97% more than budget due to the below budget O&M Expenses.

For the month of August, customer conservation charges are \$87K and conservation expenditures are \$45K. As of August 31, 2020, \$1.5M remaining funds are available in the CLM Account.

*The current CLM Rate of \$0.0025 has not changed since January 1, 2011.

Water

Total Water Revenue for the month of August is 5.7% more than budget. Residential Sales, Industrial Sales and Sales for Resales exceeded the budget by 7.3%, 4.9% and 12.6% respectively while Commercial Sales are below budget by 5.1%.

Operation & Maintenance Expenses for August are 5.8% under the budget. Net Earnings before Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is \$244K more than budget. The favorable variance is driven by the over budget Revenue and under budget O&M Expenses and the delay of the DPH Consent Agreement projects.

At the end of August 2020, \$45M has been incurred for the Water Treatment Plant project. A total of \$44M has been received from DWSRF, including \$12M from grants and \$32M from loan. The Water Division Balance Sheet (line 26) reflects the restriction of \$3.4M in cash for the WTP upgrade with the collections through June 2020.

Sewer

Total Sewer Revenue for the month of August is 14.1% more than budget. Residential and Industrial Sales exceeded the budget by 7.1% and 20.6% respectively while Commercial Sales are 2% under budget.

Operation and Maintenance Expenses for August are 23.4% below budget. Net Income is \$138K more than budget due to the over budget Revenue plus the under budget O&M Expenses.

Commissioner Zuliani questioned with the large customer billing correction, if corrected Year to Date financials will be provided and updates in future financial reports. Manager Xiang stated the auditors will correct the adjustment for July and August and financials will be updated appropriately.

PROJECTS / INITIATIVES UPDATE

A. COVID-19 Update

General Manager Biron noted as of today there have been 4,485 fatalities in Connecticut and currently 71 people hospitalized. Of the 71 hospitalized only five people are hospitalized east of the Connecticut River, four of which are in New London County. The infectivity rate in Connecticut has been less than 1% in the last 10 weeks, leading the nation in numbers. Fogging has continued in both Groton and Bozrah operation buildings. As of yesterday, September 15, 2020, the Connecticut travel protocol has been updated and travelers who test negative do not need to quarantine. Wearing of a mask or face covering is fully enforced.

Groton Utilities has been COVID free. Groton Utilities was ahead of the state protocols.

Commissioner Zuliani asked where source material is obtained. General Manager Biron informed the Commission that he listens to the Governor's daily briefings and checks the Connecticut State website. Attendance is taken and reconciled daily.

Chairperson Hedrick explained to the Commission that the Municipal building opened last week. There is a greeter to assist visitors which minimizes outside patron contact with staff. There is signage in front of the building that TVC is no longer in the building; GU is accepting only exact cash payments, checks can be mailed or placed in a drop box, auto pay is being tested; and pay by phone which minimizes customer contact in Customer Service.

B. Customer Service, Accounts Receivable

General Manager Daniels stated delinquent accounts are at 10%, medical customers drops the delinquency by 1%. Compared to last month we are 3% better but consistently 5% higher than normal. Non-paying customer shut offs are starting October 1st. Any customer with an outstanding balance with no prior payment arrangements or payment prior to shut off will be shut off. All customers without payment arrangements are being contacted to make some form of payment arrangements. General Manger Daniels has contacted other Municipal utilities in the area and they are starting shut offs October 1st under the same circumstances.

Chairperson Hedrick stated we chose this method to give us one solid month to catch up before the November moratorium due to cold weather. General Manager Daniels reached out to APPA and other public municipal utilities and private sectors to get information. Connecticut is one of the few states that stopped interrupting service during the pandemic.

C. PCB Phase II discussion

Director Gaudet stated the EPA's concerns with PCBs in the Water Treatment Plant Phase I has been approved and is currently being completed with the project construction. The EPA would like to discuss when to finish the remediation, PCB in the paint on the walls, non-authorized use and remediation expectations. Since it has been identified, it needs to be completed. It has been advised to commit in the short range rather than a legal agreement to complete in the future. We will move ahead to figure out the costs and will not be able to complete until 3-4 fiscal years. We will commit to budgeting in FY 22, 23, 24 with December of 2023 as the target completion date. Approval of the plan by the EPA by the end of this calendar year is the goal and incorporated into next budget.

Commissioner Duarte asked where PCBs remain present. General Manager Biron stated it is in the paint, and commended Manager Valentini and Water Project Manager Weber on a great job with coordination with all parties involved. Commissioner Godley asked how to remediate and why it can't be encapsulated. General Manager Biron said there are different methods and unfortunately it cannot be encapsulated, it has to be removed. Some areas in the old treatment plant can be abandoned but will still need approved by the EPA to go that route.

General Manager Biron continued to state that the soil pile has cost extra money in sampling but the soil is being re-used.

Commissioner Godley asked if use of products with PCBs are unique to industrial building. General Manager Biron noted that PCBs were in paint in 40's, 50's, and 60's because it is fire retardant and coated durably.

Chairperson Hedrick reminded the Commission and the community that the water produced for consumption, never comes in contact with areas effected by PCBs. The PCBs associated with Phase II are preexisting in the old plant. There are rooms that will not need to be accessed again, and maybe put the money aside for demolition, administrative control with protocols if entry is required.

The cost of total remediation may be around \$2M over a period of three years and bond funding cannot be approved for this type of work.

D. GUC Annual Report

Director Gaudet referred the Commission to the included Annual Report on page 35 of the package.

E. Water Filtration Plant

Manager Valentini provided a construction update on the plant, and said things are moving forward. It is expected to have water flowing to the new DAF system next week.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. PAF odor update

General Manager Biron stated that Mr. Spano has contacted the managers during afterhours with odor complaints and on-call employees have not found odor concerns upon inspection. The plant is continually being monitored. The scrubber has been verified to be operating normally and chlorine tablets have been added regularly. A continuous stack monitor has been added on the flow of the scrubber and no hydrogen sulfide has been detected. Manager Stevens had DEEP completed an ad-hoc inspection on Monday, September 13th. A draft report noted the inspector found no deficiencies in the operation of the plant. Management is working hard to find data to help address the issue, and have not been able to verify it is coming from the plant. Additional steps are being taken; carbon filter inserts are being placed in the manholes that last six months and will be monitored. General Manager Biron added that in addition to all of the previous steps taken, the Utility has asked for bids for an engineering study of the PAF to look at processes, facilities, and possibly covering the plant or relocating it. The bids have been received and action will be coming before the Commission soon. It was discovered that the dumpster that gets the screen cleanings has a few holes in it and a replacement dumpster is on order. It has been arranged with General Manager Daniels to have all Mr. Spano's calls to go through Customer Service to be tracked, recorded, and triaged to be sent the appropriate personnel.

Chairperson Hedrick reminded the Commission that all the calls were investigated and a smell could not be detected to correlate with the complaint. A meeting at the PAF was held last week, and management did a thorough walkthrough inside and outside of the plant. There were no detectable smells. Other neighbors in the area have not had concerns. The plant will not explode and there is no danger of blowing up the neighborhood. He continued to inform the Commission there has been disruption with the construction at EB, and odors at the beach because we are in a drought and ponds are now mud flaps.

General Manager Biron has reached out to LedgeLight Health District to see if there is anything else that can be done. Chairperson Hedrick has also invited them to the Groton Utility Commission Meetings. The plant is operating in accordance to specs and we are still removing the nitrogen.

Commissioner Zuliani noted that the staff has gone above and beyond and wants to ensure we are reaching outside of the Plant's perimeter. General Manager Biron stated at points this summer, odor loggers and detectors were placed on Mr. Spano's porch. Manager Valentini also stated Mystic Air tested in front of Mr. Spano's house.

General Manager Biron has also ensured "sniff checks" are routinely completed by employees in various locations on the perimeter of the plant.

Chairperson Hedrick stated although there are non-detectable odors from the plant there can be odors from the trucks that drive by and some evolutions are odor producing.

General Manager Biron overviewed the process of the suction hose during sludge removal and Mr. Spano is alerted when there are known evolutions.

Chairperson Hedrick commended the staff at the plant for doing an amazing job. Their morale is important to us, and repeated complaints without findings are frustrating.

Commissioner Zuliani asked if practices at Pfizer and EB may have impact on the odor complaints.

General Manager Biron is assigning personnel to speak to contacts at both facilities.

Commissioner Scully commented on the amazing job Groton Utilities is doing, and personally has not smelt an odor.

B. 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)

Manager Bouges reviewed the determination of funding for NAA, many non-profits applied from inside and outside of the service territory. We chose to support non-profits in our territory who have also reached out to us, and are as follows:

Bozrah Light and Power:

Odd Fellows Home, Inc. dba Fairview of Groton, CT., - \$93,749 (full amount requested)

Groton Utilities:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Avery-Copp House Museum, Inc. - | \$62,400 (full amount requested) |
| Bill Memorial Library - | \$19,525 (full amount requested) |
| Sacred Heart School - | \$68,075 (partial amount of what was requested) |

Manager Bouges gave credit to our finance group for the amount of work that goes into this process. Chairperson Hedrick thanked everyone involved and the program to give back to the community. Commissioner Duarte commented on the wonderful program. Commissioner Zuliani asked if the monies paid is our taxes that we pay to the state. Manager Xiang informed that the \$150K per company is awarded by the state in tax credit. Director Gaudet mentioned that BL&P is not doing the full \$150K due to cash flow concerns. Commissioner Godley asked if there were

any applications from non-profits in the Bozrah territory. Manager Bouges confirmed that one non-profit did apply, but did not meet the states approved qualifications.

Commissioner Scully had a few items to add to Old Business and asked for updates with progress.

C. Thames Street Traffic Lights

General Manager Biron said two pedestrian pedestals have been installed; the project is ready to complete.

D. Avery Point Street Lights

General Manager Biron and Manager Surprenant reported that about 30 lights have been replaced. They are similar to the old lights and a storage container is on premise.

E. Bad Underground on Thomas Road

Manager Surprenant said the project is on the list to be completed. General Manager Biron will provide Chairperson Hedrick with an update by Monday, September 21st.

F. Litton Court Sewer Repair on Report

Manager Stevens addressed the project and said he hopes to have a complete engineering review by an outside contractor this winter. Chairperson Hedrick has asked management to review the items listed in the report and rate how critical the work is.

G. New service to EB's new building

General Manager Biron stated that a meeting is held biweekly. Pending items are in final design to be reviewed by BHI engineers, and commitment from Linemen to work five,-10 hour days is needed. If not, the project will be outsourced.

Chairperson Hedrick explained the scope of the project. There is going to be a transformer station in EB to support the new building. There will be dual feeders, one feed down Rainville Ave. just before Eastern Point Road that will cut into the parking lot and go down along Eastern Point Road. The second is going to run down Benham Road and down Nicholas Road. He said reaching out to residents to explain the path of new poles is important. The City is responding to citizens' concerns about EB construction, EB will be more communicative to assist with the citizens' concerns and request for response. Commissioner Scully asked if new switchgear will be installed; General Manager Biron confirmed it would be installed on EB's property.

Commissioner Scully suggested EMS testing before and after due to the nature of going through residential roads.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Large customer billing discussion

Manger Brooks reported that in March of 2020 a read error occurred off one of the industrial water meters. The error was carried for 6 months when the error was discovered in August and resulted in an over-billing of about 11 million cubic feet of water resulting in about \$350,000 for water and \$590,000 for sewer. The error was not a meter system error, but was a human read error. Short-term corrective actions being taken are relabeling the touch pads, and test trial to see if reads can be automatically imported through a hand held device. Long-term corrective actions will involve changing out older meters to the new Neptune meters. This customer has several deduct meters that come off their water consumption so they aren't billed for sewer. The error did not carry over

to the deduct meters. Chairperson Hedrick said human error pushes the need to go to automatic read and reinforces the plan for current meter replacement with AMI meters. Utilities Analytics Manager Brooks said the Utility collaborated with customer to identify the error. Chairperson Hedrick asked if a lump sum would be paid back to the customer, and Director Gaudet said the decision for how the payback would be made was left to the customer; the customer has opted to get the credit back over a 6-month period. Chairperson Hedrick voiced concern that the error had affected the financials across two fiscal years. Commissioner Zuliani said he feels confident with finance and auditors that the figures would be corrected to reflect the impacted months YTD numbers. Accounting Manger Xiang confirmed that work is currently underway. Director Gaudet said that the billing department took the error personally and has really done their due diligence to address the issue. Commissioner Godley asked if, as a result of human error, protocols have been put into place to prevent recurrence. General Manger Biron said he was assigned to complete a root cause analysis to review events and complete a timeline of what happened so a recurrence does not occur. What was learned from that analysis is that an individual takes a remote read out of an eight digit number and enters it into a hand held device. The number is handed off five times. The equipment being used is thirty (30) years old. Management is looking into ways to reduce amount of hand offs. Commissioner Scully asked if the 30-year-old equipment is scheduled to be replaced. General Manager Biron said that there are approximately 930 meters left that need to be replaced.

B. Electric Bucket Truck bid

Director Gaudet informed the Commission that the Utility just went out to bid on another bucket truck.

General Manger Biron reminded the Commission that this is part of our fleet management plan. Commissioner Scully asked what truck is planned for trade. Manager Surprenant indicated that the truck being traded is 72 E; a 2004 bucket truck that has had increase costs over the last three to four years for maintenance. The truck was used during mutual aid in the Virgin Islands, and Manager Surprenant said the truck has a considerable amount of rust. Commissioner Scully asked if the truck is out to bid now, and Manager Surprenant confirmed the bid is due back on October 6, 2020. This item will come before the Commission as an Action in October.

C. Official Citation

Hedrick read the citation from Connecticut General Assembly received for exceptional power restoration efforts from recent storm Isaias. Chairperson Hedrick said an invitation has been extended to Senator Osten to attend the October Bozrah Utility Commission Meeting to present then.

Chairperson Hedrick said he would like to have a Public Service Announcement regarding power outages to educate residents on what we do before, during, and after storms and the reason they may not see trucks out during the storm.

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. GUC-WPCA 20-09-34 Consideration of and Action to authorize a capital project for Four Hundred Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$419,650.00) (including 10% contingency) to be funded from the 2016 Electric Bond Fund for the Engineering Design and Project Management for the Groton owned 1410, 1280 and 400 transmission lines required upgrades and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur

Commissioner Godley moved, **Commissioner Duarte** seconded that the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approve Action Item GUC-WPCA 20-09-34.

Chairperson Hedrick reminded the Commission that this is the project for the Transmission lines and is ISO required. His concern is the Bond Council is still down. This is one of the two bonds that does need to go, but the 2016 bond fund can get us going on this. Possibly exploring Council approval versus Freemans meeting to obtain bonding. Director Gaudet said this will give permission for the project with use of the funds we already have to get the project started. He said pole replacements were listed in the 2016 bond fund, the decision to hold off was made since the poles would be replaced during this project.

Commissioner Scully asked who would be doing the engineering work and if it is included. General Manager Kruszewski said it would be coordinated with Eversource and the preferred vendor. Commissioner Scully wanted clarification of CMEEC's involvement with the project. Director Gaudet said that CMEEC has cut the PO for the engineers, as they are our representatives for the transmission lines.

Motion Carried.

- B. GUC-WPCA 20-09-35** Consideration of and action to authorize Groton Utilities Management to purchase one new mixing pump from Vaughan Co., 364 Monte-Elma Road, Montesano, Washington, as a sole source supplier, to replace the unreliable mixing pump located in the Digester Building at the Pollution Abatement Facility for an amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$15,800.00) and an additional Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$4,200.00) for contingency, piping and project management to be paid from available cash in the Sewer Division budget as a non-bonded capital purchase, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur

Commissioner Scully moved, **Commissioner Godley** seconded that the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approve Action Item GUC-WPCA 20-09-35.

Manager Valentini said there is an old, unreliable mixing pump on the digester, and this will improve reliability in case first mixing pump goes down.

Motion Carried.

- C. GUC-WPCA 20-09-36** Consideration of and action to authorize Groton Utilities management to issue a purchase order to Ti Sales, Water and Wastewater Supplies, 36 Hudson Road (Route 27), Sudbury, Massachusetts for the purchase of replacement commercial and residential meters and associated parts and equipment as part of the Water Division's Advanced Metering Infrastructure Meter Replacement Project in the amount of Two Hundred One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars and No Cents (\$201,750.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved 2016 Water Bond Fund, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur

Commissioner Zuliani moved, **Commissioner Duarte** seconded that the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approve Action Item GUC-WPCA 20-09-36.

Manager Valentini said this is a continuation of the meter change out plan and this will use up all the bond money for this project.

Chairperson Hedrick asked if this would complete the change out.

Manager Valentini said the change out will continue over the next two years and this year, COVID has prevented change out because we are not entering customer homes.

Chairperson Hedrick asked if the next bond would be for part of this. Manager Valentini said it would be discussed during budget meetings.

Motion Carried.

- D. GUC-WPCA 20-09-37** Consideration of and action to authorize Groton Utilities Management to pay for the services of Phoenix Environmental Laboratories, Inc., 587 E. Middle Turnpike, Manchester, Connecticut for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) laboratory testing that was not included in the Scope of Services for Environmental Partners to address current Walter Filtration PCB Remediation for an amount not to exceed Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Forty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$90,648.00) as a non-budgeted item to be paid from retained earnings in the Approved FY 2021 Water Budget, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur

Commissioner Duarte moved, **Commissioner Zuliani** seconded that the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approve Action Item GUC-WPCA 20-09-37.

General Manager Biron said as part of the PCB remediation plan of the Water Treatment Plant, the EPA asked for multiple samples to be tested. The cost was more than anticipated. He said sampling would have had to be completed anyway. Commissioner Zuliani asked if it was an error that the cost was not included in the scope. General Manager Biron said there was no error, but the scope kept changing and so did cost. He thanked Manager Valentini and Environmental Partners Consultant, Paul Muniz for their work with this project.

Motion Carried.

- E. GUC-WPCA 20-09-38** Consideration of and action to authorize Groton Utilities management to approve Change Order No. 19 from R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts for which includes a credit and revisions to the existing plan as part of the State of Connecticut, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project No. 2013-0140, in an amount not to exceed Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars and Eighty Eight Cents (\$83,639.88) and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur and Mayor Keith Hedrick be authorized to execute the Change Order No. 19 upon final approval by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health

Commissioner Scully moved, **Commissioner Duarte** seconded that the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approve Action Item GUC-WPCA 20-09-38.

Director Gaudet said there is detail of contingency in package and line items of each thing being done.

Chairperson Hedrick commented that there is still contingencies and asked when the turnover of the plant to the Utility is. Director Gaudet said the end date of contract January 10, 2021.

Commissioner Duarte questioned the days scheduled on site. Director Gaudet said the construction contract has been extended through the Change Orders, but Stantec's contract has been not changed as of yet.

Motion Carried.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

12. STRATEGIC PLANNING

A. Review mission, values, priorities

B. Commission Level Goals

Since Commissioner Godley was excused at 12:30 p.m., this agenda item has been postponed until the October 21, 2020 meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 12:37 p.m., **Commissioner Scully** moved, **Commissioner Duarte** seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Attest:

Paul Duarte
Clerk

Sam Spano 300 Thames St Groton CT

There has been no improvement in the odor situation since the 8/19/20 UC meeting. The severity of the odors has actually gotten worse!

Odor days since the 8/19 meeting. Thurs 8/20, Sun 8/30, Thurs 9/3, Fri 9/4, Sat 9/5, Sun 9/6 and Sun 9/13. These were all called in to mgrs. Again, I suspect there have been more odor days than those documented above but it depends on the wind direction. Also I have been running my AC a lot and also have been away for considerable periods of time in both Aug and Sept.

It needs to be noted that Thurs 8/20 and Sat 9/5 were the worst odor days to date since the problems began.

On Thurs 8/20 at approx 4:55 PM there was a Massive Release of Hydrogen Sulfide Gas from the WPCA. (See email Spano / Gaudet 8/21/20). This went on for at least an hour. This incident is alarming since this gas is both quite Toxic and Explosive. The smell of Rotten Eggs permeated the neighborhood. This type of odor had not happened before. My neighbor Bonnie Geisler also smelled it up at her house on up 25 Fort Street which is some distance away. I know from speaking with her that she was both very concerned and frightened by this incident. She told me that she had also put in a complaint.

I was not able to get a hold of a mgr. at the time of the incident due to confusion about who was actually on call that evening. The next morning I called the plant and talked to both Jim Bowdy and Joe Pratt. Both denied the odor had come from the plant. Mr. Pratt actually pointed the finger at the sewer lines. I am certain this was not the case due to the intense magnitude of the odor and the fact that the wind was blowing right over the plant the time. I know this because the flag over the plant was pointing in my direction during the incident.

By the way, blaming the sewer lines is an old "excuse". I have heard this one many times from GU personal including management. The WPCA is also responsible for the sewer lines and the new Bioxide Injection System is supposed to take care of any issues there.

I have never received any explanation for this Rotten Egg (Sulfur) Odor from GU management.

On Sat 9/5 the odor was a Very Bad Raw Sewage Odor. Perhaps Methane Gas?. (See email Spano / Gaudet 9/7/20). This incident started about 2:59 PM and went on into the night. I first noticed it because it was so intense that it actually came in thru my Back screen door into my home office at the Rear of my house. Usually the odor comes thru my front windows into my living room which faces the plant. Mgr.on call Rick Stevens sent an operator out to the plant twice but it did no good. It should be noted that there had been the same odor on Thurs 9/3 and Fri 9/4 and then also Sun 9/6 but to a lessor degree. On Sat I had to close my all windows and put on the AC for the rest of the weekend.

I would also like to note that at this time there was some finger pointing that the odor may have come from the New London plant across the river. This is not the first time I have heard this "explanation". On Sunday I took a trip over to NL to find out the actual location of that plant. The gate was open since this plant is manned 24/7, as a result I was able to gain access to the

plant and walk around. I understand this plant processes roughly 5 times the sewage of the Groton plant. What I found that day was a clean and virtually odor free plant. My understanding is this plant is run by private contractors.

I believe that is a complete fallacy that any intense odor could make it across the river from NL. For one thing this plant directly borders Fort Trumbull State Park, any major odor from the NL plant would shut down this park long before it crossed the river. I also am certain that the wind would disperse any odor long before it reached my house on the far Groton bank.

I have heard that the permanent air monitor has finally been installed on the scrubber as of Monday 9/14. Hopefully this gives some reliable data as to what is coming out of the stack from here on out.

One other thing in regards to the scrubber. I would like a clear explanation as to whether or not Chlorine Tablets are still being put into the scrubber on a regular scheduled basis for odor control by the current operators. Perhaps GU management can clarify this as there seems to be some controversy about this procedure depending on who you talk to.

So here we are more than 14 months since the odor problems began on July 8, 2019. As can be seen, the situation is still out of control.

Again, I Thank the Commissioners for your Help in Advance.