



School Administrative Unit 70

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Jay Badams, ED.D., *Superintendent*
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Josh Mulloy, *Director of Educational Technology*

February 6, 2021

Dear Members of the Hartford Selectboard,

We appreciate your willingness to delay, to February 9th, the discussion of the Norwich School District request to consider a connection of our Pre-K through 6th grade elementary Marion Cross School, as well as three existing businesses along the Route 5 corridor, the Co-op Service Center, King Arthur Baking, and the Norwich Commerce Park, to Hartford's wastewater system. We know you, as well as some interested citizens, were expecting this discussion at the last Selectboard meeting, on January 26th. We were taken by surprise by the scheduling (in fact it fell on the same night as a school board meeting), and only learned of it after a Hartford listserv post that referenced the agenda item and that the Board would be asked to make a motion to end discussions with the Norwich School District was forwarded to us.

This was extremely frustrating, given our ongoing discussions, dating back to December of 2018, when representatives from the Norwich School District met with Town Manager Leo Pullar, Department of Public Works Director Hannah Tyler, and other representatives of the Town of Hartford to initially discuss the proposal. At the time, we were told that there was likely a "path forward" and the Hartford wastewater system seemed to have "plenty of capacity."

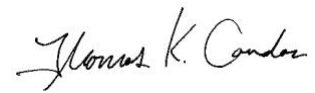
Having had the opportunity to fully review the memo that Department of Public Works Director Hannah Tyler provided Interim Town Manager John MacLean (and that was included in your January 26th and February 9th meeting packets), we wanted to provide a response directly to all members of the Hartford Selectboard, understanding from the Interim Town Manager that this was the preferred method of communication (rather than including it in your Selectboard packet). We feel that there are numerous inaccuracies in the memo, a number of points that need clarification and context, and that it takes an inexplicably negative tone.

We hope that, upon reviewing our responses, you agree that it is worth continuing with our discussions. While we, of course, understand that there are many pros and cons to each and every infrastructure discussion, especially those crossing town lines, we also believe that this would prove beneficial to both parties.

We have been asked: "What's in it for Hartford?" In response we have noted: 1) The Norwich School District and partners would pay for all connection costs and use of Hartford's wastewater systems; 2) We would be paying for capacity significantly unused, our understanding being that the Hartford system has a capacity of 1.45 million gallons per day and is currently at 50% capacity. Our request is for up to 20,000 gallons per day (1.4% of capacity); and 3) Hartford would be providing an environmentally sensitive and sustainable solution, not only to our school district, but to two area businesses that have significant footprints in Hartford (King Arthur Baking's warehouses and the Co-op's White River Junction grocery store), which contribute to Hartford's tax base and provide goods, services, and jobs.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do let us know if you have any questions, either in advance of the meeting, or during the meeting, as we plan to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas K. Candon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas Candon
Norwich School Board, Chair