

NEW SHOREHAM WATER COMMISSION & SEWER COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING

June 21, 2010 Minutes

Present were WATER Commission members Chair Sandra Finizia, Wayne Battey, Brad Marthens, Cliff McGinnes, alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio, and District Clerk Janet Ziegler.
Absent was member Peter McNerney, F. Leslie will vote in his place.

Present were SEWER Commission members Wayne Battey, Tom Doyle, Sandra Finizia, Cliff McGinnes, alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio, and District Clerk Janet Ziegler.
Absent was member Peter McNerney, R. Migliaccio will vote in his place.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Lewis, Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons, and Attorney Elliot Taubman.

S. Finizia called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M

JOINT MEETING WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT.

1. Welcome New Members - Renewals.

Welcomed were new members: Brad Marthens as Water Commissioner and Wayne Battey as Sewer Commissioner; both appointments fill the term of recently retired member R. Brown.

- Election of Offices

SEWER

MOTION: by R. Migliaccio to elect C. McGinnes as Chair of the Sewer Commission. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to appoint was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Doyle, Finizia, McGinnes, Migliaccio). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

C. McGinnes commented that he would serve at least one additional year, but that he expected, if the electric cable to the mainland materialize, he would then be tied up in that project.

Since C. McGinnes was serving as Sewer Commission Vice-Chair, the election to Chair vacates that position.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to appoint S. Finizia as Vice Chair of the Sewer Commission. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to appoint was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Doyle, Finizia, McGinnes, Migliaccio). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

(4:36 PM. B. Marthens joined the meeting)

WATER

MOTION: by Water Chair S. Finizia to elect C. McGinnes as Vice-Chair of the Water Commission. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to appoint was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Finizia, Leslie, Marthens, McGinnes). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

2. Accept Sewer minutes of May 17, May 18, May 31, and June 7 minutes.

E. Taubman observed that in the May 17 minutes regarding medical benefits for employees, that, in actuality he stated that some employers take into account other sources of medical coverage (Medicare, spousal coverage etc.) when they set their insurance programs, and what he did not say was that one employee should be singled out because of Medicare eligibility. His comments will be reflected in the May 17 minutes. N. Dodge stated that she was not present at that meeting and that attendance should reflect that.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to accept the sewer minutes with noted comment; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

3. Accept Water minutes of May 17.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to accept the water minutes; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

4. Meeting Locations and Agenda Closings for 2010.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to close the meeting agenda one week prior to the meeting day to allow time for preparation and distribution of meeting packages in consideration of changes to USPS mail delivery; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to hold all regular monthly meetings at Town Hall in order to accommodate a request from the hearing impaired; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

5. Correspondences.

- May 19, Resignation of R. Brown from Water and Sewer Commission. The Commissioners requested that a letter of appreciation be sent.
- June 14, Appointment of B. Marthens to Water Commission (2014).
- June 14, Appointment of W. Battey to Sewer Commission (2014).
- June 16, Advisory from RI Attorney General's Office regarding Public Records and Open Meeting Laws on Sealed Minutes. The four page letter was in response to questions posed by E. Taubman regarding release of personal information and timing to seal minutes of executive sessions.

MOTION: by Sewer Commissioner C. McGinnes that the Commission adopt as policy that any motion to seal minutes shall occur at the end of the executive session; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: by Water Commissioner C. McGinnes that the Commission adopt as policy that any motion to seal minutes shall occur at the end of the executive session; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: by Sewer Commissioner C. McGinnes that the sealed minutes of the March 15 executive session be released upon request by C. Blane and/or R. Boucher; the motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to release was:

AYE: 4 (Battey, Finizia, Leslie, McGinnes). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: 1 (Marthens).

The motion carried.

6. Announcements and Open Forum. *None***WATER DISTRICT**

MOTION: by S. Finizia to postpone agenda item 7. Finances since A. Lewis was not in attendance. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimous.

8. Water Plant Operations.

Both water storage tanks were inspected and some degradation of the interior lining has been noted and the manufacturer is being consulted. Water usage was reported down 20% in May and there are indications that June usage might be down 10%; these are important revenue factors for the fiscal year closing June 30.

E. Blane, a real estate agent in the audience, stated that there was a consensus among brokers that rentals were significantly down for July this year.

(A. Land arrived at 5:00PM)

7. Finance.

- May 31 Financials, Aging Report.

A. Land stated that Financials would be available next week in time for the Annual Financial Meetings.

- FY 2011 Water Schedule of Fee and Charges.

D. Simmons noted that, with the exception of the increase in usage fees, the schedule would remain unchanged for the budget presentation.

- Water Allocation for New Customer.

D. Simmons stated that a written policy to allow potential customers of the new water main extension (on Ocean Avenue and West Side Road) to finance costs over three years (as approved at the May 17 meeting) is being developed.

E. Taubman volunteered that various issues relating to his High Street office becoming a new water customer had been resolved with the water superintendent.

9. Announcements and Open Forum.

In a June 2 letter from USDA, received by N. Dodge, they are requiring the return of funds from the 2006 Water Grant.

N. Dodge reported that the Town has requested an Appeal Hearing regarding the previously reimbursed and unused funds of the grant.

SEWER DISTRICT

10. FISCAL YEAR 2011 SEWER BUDGET.

C. McGinnes stated that at the last meeting, the Commission voted to proceed with a 9.5% increase in use fees.

Responding to a question, C. McGinnes reiterated that the Commission voted at the May 17 meeting to offer Healthmate medical coverage to all employees and that if an individual employee wanted to choose another plan, that employee would have to pay the difference. Additionally, C. McGinnis reported that an employee in the sewer plant has since opted voluntarily to become a single beneficiary in the Classic plan rather than have family coverage – a significant savings.

A. Land stated that changes to the budget would be reflected at the Financial Meeting on June 28.

- FY 2011 Sewer Schedule of Fees and Charges.

C. McGinnes stated that changes for the next fiscal year would be to the sewer use fees (9.5% increases) and to the septage/boat pump-outs (to \$85. per 1,000 gallons).

11. Finance.

- May 31 Financials, Legal Fees. Aging Report.

A. Land reported that no financials were available. The Town inappropriately charged some of its legal fees to re-write the Town's Wastewater Management Ordinance to the Sewer Commission, the sewer line item remains unresolved.

(July 19 Monthly meeting: "...Land stated that the charges may be "incorrect", but they were not "inappropriate".)

12. Review of Job Postings and Summer Intern Position.

R. Boucher stated that there is a person who is immediately available to start the seasonal (non-benefit) job and that he is only waiting for authorization for a start date. C. McGinnes replied that the new budget first needs to be approved at the Financial Meeting before a decision can be made.

13. Sewer Plant Operations.

As of this date, R. Boucher reported that the alarm at Champlin's pump station is not installed; the invoice from Omni Electric is expected in the next fiscal year. Quite a bit of grease is still fouling the pump stations in non-compliance to the ordinances.

- Recommendation for Changes to Ordinance 19-41 Enforcement.

To affect a change in the Town Ordinance, it must first be approved by Town Council, and then advertised for three weeks for public input before it can be voted on. E. Taubman suggested that the Sewer Commission has the authority to adopt its own regulations for enforcement of grease trap compliance and implement fines for non-compliance. Furthermore, in the Management Agreement, the Town Council has agreed to repeal ordinances that were inconsistent with sewer policy. E. Taubman suggested that he would send a letter to Town Council for their next meeting regarding such a proposal; if they agreed, a new policy (posted for 48-hours) could be adopted at the next Sewer Commission meeting on July 19.

14. Correspondence.

- May 19, Sewer Letter to BIPC Regarding Power to OH Pump Station. *There were no comments.*
- Reports from the Wastewater Management Inspector: (7) release of NOV, (1) Notice of Violation, (1) Requirement to Perform Repairs.

15. Announcements and Open Forum.

The Chamber of Commerce requested that the Commissioners give consideration to the business community in their budget planning. When user revenues are diminished, the same is also likely true for business revenues on Block Island. They asked that the budget preparations begin earlier in the spring so that they, likewise, can plan for changes.

R. Boucher stated that the renters were verbally notified of rent increases and will follow-up with a letter copied to finance for payroll deductions. B. Marthens inquired whether rent deductions from payroll were collected before or after taxes; A. Land will look into the choices.

Adjourn.

MOTION: by T. Doyle to adjourn the meeting was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ziegler

District Clerk Approved: July 19, 2010



every drop counts

<http://www.blockislandwater.org/minutes.html>

The New Shoreham Sewer Commission and Water Board are an equal opportunity providers and employers.