

JOINT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
NEW SHOREHAM SEWER COMMISSION and BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

August 7, 2007 Minutes

Present were members Ann Cunningham, Frank Leslie, Cliff McGinnes, Rally Migliaccio, Howie Rice, Don Thimble and District Clerk Janet Ziegler.

Absent was member Steve McQueeney.

Present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons and Counsel Elliot Taubman.

Absent was Finance Director Amy Lewis.

Also present was Nick DePetrillo and Ted Robinson.

C. McGinnes called the meeting to order at 4:35 P.M.

H. Rice stated that he was recusing himself from discussion/voting on the request for a sewer lateral.

1. Nick DePetrillo and Ted Robinson request for sewer laterals, Plat 6 Lots 5 and 6.

N. DePetrillo began his request by showing the members a site plan which had been approved by the town's Planning Board; a lot line change has occurred since that time. In the 1970s, when the sewer system was first installed, every abutting lot was to receive a lateral for the mandatory connection.

Sewer superintendent R. Boucher confirmed, after reviewing videos of the collection lines, that no lateral was present. N. DePetrillo asked that the Commission's engineer design the connection and that a lateral be brought to the property line.

E. Taubman added that if the Sewer Commission did not enforce the original contract in the 1970s, then they were still obligated to do so. For the record, E. Taubman said that even though N. DePetrillo was a client of his, but he did not feel that there was a conflict of interest since the relationship dealt with taxes.

C. McGinnes observed that other properties in the Sewer District may exist that do not have sewer laterals. The Commission agreed to take the request under consideration for the next meeting in September. (N. DePetrillo and T. Robinson left the meeting at 4:55 PM.)

D. Thimble reminded the Commission that, in a recent court case with a customer on Chapel Street, the Commission was required to reimburse the customer's cost to install a lateral when none could be found.

MOTION: by D. Thimble to contact the town engineer to draw up specs for the connection and have Transue provide the installation. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to provide was:

AYE: 4 (Cunningham, McGinnes, Migliaccio, Thimble). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: 1 (Rice).

The motion carried.

(E. Taubman left the meeting at 5:00)

2. Reports from Officials.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING.

- USDA Compliance Visit. N. Dodge reported that USDA representative David Steer visited the sewer and water plants last week and gave them a satisfactory compliance review. A new 'applicant information' form was attached to all new applications.

The 2006 Sewer Grant/Loan closed on May 30; \$633K should be received on account by August 7. The 2006 Water Grant/Loan closed on June 20; \$802.5K funds should also be received August 7.

FINANCE.

- June Aging Report. A. Lewis was not present to report.
- Parking Lot Improvement Bills. C. McGinnes reported that Geremia has asked Sprague Farm construction for a clarification and revision to his invoice received; a similar letter was sent to the landscaper, Islandscape for revisions.
- Enterprise Fund Account for Wastewater Management Fine Collection, RIGL and Process of Collecting Fines. C. McGinnes stated that the Sewer Commission was appointed as a 'Hearing' board and should not be involved with decisions better made by the Wastewater Management and Finance offices; the Commissioners concurred.

WATER/SEWER PLANT OPERATIONS.

SEWER.

C. McGinnes reported that the electrical feed to the plant was 185 volts; it should be 208 volts to adequately run all the equipment. R. Boucher said that motors overheat with inadequate power and, in fact, an aeration tank blower motor, only 3 years old, was recently lost because of the stress. BIPCO promised ground mounted transformers three years ago. The issue will be addressed when the plant returns to the grid.

R. Boucher reported that A. Transue would be addressing the root ball blocking A. Littlefield's lateral on High Street when parts arrive. A. Littlefield has verified the size of the line.

The DEM (Department of Environmental Management) has drafted amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Operations and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Facilities with public meetings to be held August 15th and 29th. Most of the changes are clarifications of public oversight for private systems/lines and revisions to include modern development standards. Other changes ensure adequate operations, maintenance and treatment capacity.

WATER.

A leak at the Old Harbor pump station was fixed; an old 1 ¼" water lateral was discovered and sealed, it probably fed the old fuel building. The water company staff and Commissioner H. Rice responded to stand-by customer Spring House when their well pump failed and water was provided within an hour's time. A new tap was required when the curbstop could not be located; a permanent stand-by service will be installed.

Final drawings for the sprinkler system were submitted to Geremia for final approval; bids for a new roof are being received and security cameras (and software) are being installed to monitor plant grounds, storage tanks, well field and interior plant functions. Project bidders for Seawinds, on High Street, have been in contact regarding specifications.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The DEM's Office of Water Resources is proposing significant changes to the State's ISDS (Individual Septic Disposal System) Rules. Public comment will be heard until September 7; Rules will be finalized by September 28 and become effective October 22. Only washing machine effluent is now defined as Gray water in Rhode Island; all other sources are black water (sinks, showers).

When fines were initiated on one property owner, the system was fixed within days.

3. New Business.

- Sewer Commission/Water Board Retreat, Date and Agenda.
- C. McGinnes suggested that the month of October might be a good month for the Commission to hold a retreat. Long term planning, out ~10+ years, is one item the Commission/Board should discuss. A professional facilitator will be sought to assist and focus the event.

H. Rice said that while school was in session, he has school bus obligations. Other members would be available. C. McGinnes requested that members send him their thoughts and ideas for a retreat.

- Approve Minutes of June29 Annual Financial Meeting of the Sewer District, June29 Annual Financial Meeting of the Water District, and the monthly meeting of July 17.

MOTION: by A. Cunningham to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was unanimously affirmative.

4. Correspondence and Public Comment.

RI DEM (Department of Environmental Management) has proposed Amendments to the Rules & Regulations for the Operations and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Discussed under Operations reports.

Adjourn.

MOTION: by H. Rice to adjourn the meeting was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to adjourn was unanimous by all members present.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ziegler

District Clerk

Approved: September 13, 2007

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