

The New Shoreham SEWER DISTRICT Monthly Meeting
December 14, 2009
Old Harbor Meadow Community Center, Chapel Street, Block Island

Present were Sewer Commission members Interim Chair Robby Brown, Tom Doyle, Sandra Finizia, Peter McNerney, alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio and District Clerk Janet Ziegler.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Superintendent Ray Boucher, and Attorney Elliot Taubman.

Absence: Finance Director Amy Lewis.

Interim Chair R. Brown called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM. Alternate R. Migliaccio will vote.

1. Hearing: Recommendation to Town Council to include Plat 5 Lots 76-2 (Gate Farm Family LP), 76-3 (Palermo) and 77 (Hodge Estate) in the Sewer District.

Norris Pike (partial owner of Plat 5 Lot 77) would like to install a sewer line to his property; the neighboring area is environmentally sensitive with small lots and wetland issues. Nat Gaffett, representing Plat 5 Lot 76-2, spoke in favor of the sewer line, although his family did not wish to hook up at this time. The item was discussed at the November 16 meeting and the Commission requested input from Geremia's office. Engineering feasibility for a gravity line was received and recommended.

MOTION: by R. Brown to recommend to the Town Council that Plat 5 Lots 76-2, 76-3 and 77 be included in the Sewer District.

The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for recommendation was:

Ayes: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) Nays: ∅ Absent: ∅

The motion carried.

GIS maps of the lots and District boundaries have been prepared and will be forwarded with the request.

2. Accept Minutes of November 16 and December 4.

MOTION: by R. Brown to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to approve was unanimous.

3. New Commission Member Search.

Cliff McGinnes, a past Commissioner, stated that this was an opportunity to have a cohesive board again by proposing that Sewer Commissioner Tom Doyle be appointed as a Water Commissioner and that Water Commissioner Wayne Battey be appoint to the sewer board. The Commissioners agreed that with common interests, the boards worked very well when the same people were knowledgeable about both boards. T. Doyle said they would gladly accept the appointments.

MOTION: by R. Brown to recommend to the Town Council to appoint T. Doyle as a Sewer Commissioner. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for the recommendation was unanimous.

There being 6 members of the Water Commission present at the Sewer meeting, they unanimously agreed with the recommendation and by unanimous consent requested that their Water member, Wayne Battey, be included in as a recommendation to the Town Council for appointment to the Sewer board.

4. Reports from Officials.

SEWER COMMISSION

- Act on Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2010.

Noted was that the same schedule was discussed and accepted at the Water meeting; there being no other input, the Sewer Commission unanimously agreed to the same schedule.

- Vote to Affirm Actions of Town Manager to Waive Fees and Change Allocation Requirements

Noted that the subject was discussed in the Water meeting and there was no other input.

MOTION: by T. Doyle to affirm to actions of the Town Manager to waive the sewer permit and inspection fees attributed to the affordable unit and modify the allocation numbers (exact numbers would be given to the superintendents after the meeting). The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the votes to affirm the actions were:

Ayes: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) Nays: ∅ Absent: ∅

The motion carried.

- Appoint Job Applicant Recommendation Committee.

R. Boucher said that he would like to hire an operator by the first of the year. The board discussed limiting the committee to two members to keep the process informal; the committee would work with the sewer superintendent and make hiring recommendations to the Commission.

MOTION: by R. Brown to appoint P. McNerney and R. Brown as a Recommendation Committee to work with the sewer superintendent on applicants. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for committee was:

Ayes: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) Nays: Ø Absent: Ø

The motion carried.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING.

- Town Council Wastewater Management (WWM) Ordinance Hearing.

N. Dodge reported that the WWM Town Ordinance was adopted on December 7 by the Town Council (effective December 14) without any further changes.

Finance.

- November Financial, Aging Report.

In absence of A. Land, Dodge noted that the finance office did not produce financials this month because of problems with the Town's Fundware software. C. McGinnes, commenting from the audience, said that Sewer pays a good amount of money to the Town for the services of finance and monthly reports are essential for business. The commission requested that the cover summary page highlighting changes be reinstated.

SEWER PLANT OPERATIONS.

- Report on Caterpillar Recommendations for Generator Operation.

R. Boucher reported that Geremia's office is in contact with Caterpillar and should have something ready for January's meeting. C. McGinnes, from BIPCO, stated that the power company has never uses spark arrestors – they have only extended the generator stacks. Boucher responded that Geremia was looking at the system from upgrading the mufflers all the way out. CAT recommended Highland Power and Geremia is also consulting with CAT directly.

- Update Roof Repairs.

R. Boucher reported that he would notify Lambert Construction to permanently repair the patch on the roof (\$740). Boyle & Fogerty, who was hired to install the sewer lateral to Damm's property on Ocean Avenue, cancelled their trip to the island today; they have laid off employees for the winter season and do not want to rehire. Boucher reported that A. Transue Company has volunteered to do the job and willing to meet the special construction needs of operating below the water table in that area.

5. Request by Chris Hobe, Representing Champlin's Marina, to Address Flow Metering.

In 2005 the Commission agreed to use pump hours at Champlin's Marina to determine sewer flows instead of the electronic flow meter. C. Hobe stated that the owner of Champlin's is requesting that the flow meter be calibrated by a third party and placed back in service for flow determinations for the 2010 season. R. Boucher said that he was not against the method, but that the request should formally be put in writing for the Commission to consider.

6. Correspondence.

- November 10, from Geremia to N. Dodge regarding proposed Yarn and Dye Facility.
- Ray reports that process is organic & shouldn't be a problem – may have to pH problem.
- November 10, N. Dodge to BI Housing (Seawinds) re: Allocation and Fees Due.
- November 10-19, Copies of Notices from Wastewater Inspector: 3 Failure, 1 Upgrade, 1 Suspect Failure, 2 Leaks to Repair, 1 Maintenance Agreement Absent. Discussion: plethora of letters were a result of new WWM Ordinance being recently adopted.
- December 9, Champlin's Request to Address Commission.

7. Announcements and Public Comment.

Adjourn.

MOTION: by R. Brown to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Ziegler

Approved: DRAFT

The New Shoreham Sewer and Water Commissions are equal opportunity providers and employers.