

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

Present were Water Commission members Interim-Chair Sandra Finizia, Wayne Battey, Robby Brown, alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio, and District Clerk Janet Ziegler.

Absent : Peter McNerney.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Superintendent Dave Simmons, and Attorney Elliot Taubman.

Absence: Finance Director Amy Lewis.

Interim Chair S. Finizia called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Alternates R. Migliaccio and F. Leslie will vote.

1. Accept Minutes of November 16 and December 4.

MOTION: by R. Brown to accept the November 16 minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to affirm was unanimous.

MOTION: by R. Brown to accept the December 4 minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to affirm was unanimous.

(P. McNerney arrived at 4:38 PM. F. Leslie will no longer vote.)

2. New Commission Member Search. The Commissioners were asked to seek out potential members and make recommendations at the January meeting.

3. Reports from Officials.

WATER COMMISSION

- Act on Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2010.

A draft calendar of meetings for the upcoming year had been distributed; there were no comments.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to set the 2010 meeting schedule for the third Monday of the month; exceptions would be third Wednesday for January and February (to comply with holidays) and second Monday for December. First choice of meeting place is Old Harbor Community Center, followed by the Fire Barn. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to set the 2010 meeting schedule was:

AYES: 5 (Battey, Brown, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) NAYS: ∅ ABSTAIN: ∅

The motion carried.

- Vote to Affirm Actions of Town Manager to Waive Fees and Change Allocation Requirements in Seawind Project for Affordable Unit.

N. Dodge explained that in a last minute effort to facilitate the closing on the Seawind's affordable unit, a Municipal Lien had to be filed; sewer/water allocation costs were amended and some sewer/water application fees were waived by her office.

MOTION: by P. McNerney to waive the sewer and water 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 (Battey, Brown, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) NAYS: ∅ ABSTAIN: ∅

The motion carried.

Invoicing for the remaining unpaid fees of the Seawinds project are being worked out between Geremia's office (on behalf of the Water and Sewer Commissions) and DiPrete Engineering (representing Seawinds). Those figures will be given to the superintendents as soon as available for their final approval.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING. *No report.*

FINANCE.

- November Financials, Aging Report. *Not present.*

Water Plant Operations.

- Report on Meeting with Geremia, USDA and ASRW – Ocean Ave extension.

D. Simmons reported that last Thursday he met with Atlantic States Rural Water (ASRW) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Geremia’s office to discuss the engineering and financial feasibility of a water main extension on Ocean Avenue from Trim’s Pond Bridge to Dead Eye Dicks (phase 1) and an additional extension (phase 2) on West Side Road to E. Searles Ball Housing.

USDA would look favorable on a 75% grant, if the water line was extended to E. Searles Ball (a USDA funded project) for health and safety considerations. The new grant would also include the redevelopment of Well #4. Simmons stated that a new ‘service area’ census would be required in order to meet federal qualifying guidelines and that ASRW would conduct the survey at no charge. A formal request from the Commission must be made to USDA in order for them to authorize the income survey; Simmons will draw up the letter.

The construction financial numbers looks feasible at ~\$100/linear foot, however, a required archeological study might be a challenge because of the Indian artifacts in the Hog Pen area. Payback on investment with regards to number of new customers and the quantity of revenue that might be expected was a concern as an undetermined number; new customers need to sign a commitment. Cliff McGinnes, Operations Manager of BIPCO, suggested that some of the 20 new houses on West Lane might be interested in connecting since the project has been burning out well pumps.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to move the water main extension project forward by formally requesting authorization from USDA to have a ‘service area’ income survey performed. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the votes to affirm the actions were:

AYES: 5 (Battey, Brown, Finizia, McNerney, Migliaccio) NAYS: Ø ABSTAIN: Ø

The motion carried.

It was noted was that only one formal letter had been received from the potential customers of the phase 1 water main extension on Ocean Avenue. Simmons said that he would contact potential abutters and inform them of the phase 1 and phase 2 projects and solicit formal commitments to become customers.

4. Correspondence.

- November 10, N. Dodge to BI Housing (Seawinds) re: Allocation and Fees Due.
- November 11, Island Marine Corp Request Inclusion to Water District.
- November 16, Geremia to RI DoH Requesting Removal of Source Monitoring Requirement.

5. Announcements and Public Comment.

The Commissioners discussed modifying the agendas. Often the same topic is first on water’s agenda and then appears on the following sewer’s agenda, but it is not uncommon to waived off the discussion as having already been completed. An efficient solution would be to combine the like sewer and water subjects under in a joint meeting where each commission could vote separately on, but discussed the subject in common. Other specific water and sewer items could be agended together, but separately.

The Commissioners generally agreed that combined meetings would be useful and practical. E. Taubman stated that the only legal requirement was that separate minutes must be filed for each organization.

Adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Ziegler
Approved: Draft

The New Shoreham Water District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.