

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

December 11, 2007 Minutes

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

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons and Jessica Veldman.

Absent were Finance Director Amy Lewis and Counsel Elliot Taubman.

C. McGinnes called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. A. Cunningham and F. Leslie will not be voting.

1. Reports from Officials.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING.

- EPA Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration Project: The Great Salt Pond Tribs.

A. Cunningham reported that J. Migliore, from DEM's Water Resource office, hinted that he would prefer that the investigation of pollutants start at the Cormorant Cove site. The sewer and water laboratories acquired additional provisions to perform informal analysis for the group. Other troubled sites noted were tributaries originating from Bridgegate Square and Mill Tail Swamp areas. A. Cunningham stated that the Ad Hoc group would perform a dry run to see how the procedures would fair. Close out of the grant was November 30. The final EPA accounting report should be ready for the Island Steering Committee meeting scheduled for December 28.

N. Dodge announced that Geremia & Associates is in planning stages for the investigation of the structural integrity of the sewer outfall. Bathymetry data will first be gathered followed by a sidescan sonar of the jetty.

FINANCE. *Not present.*

- Financial Reports November, Aging.
- Report on FY 2007 Exit Audit.

N. Dodge noted that, although several Commissioners attended the Auditor's financial assessment, they left the meeting before the total review of sewer and water were completed. Some Commissioner's complained that copies of the final audit were not available for permanent distribution.

- Recommendations to Discharge USDA Water Loans.
- Special Financial Sewer/Water District Meeting to Allocate Reserves for Capital Projects.

N. Dodge reported that the auditors want to have a specific monetary amount assigned to specific projects instead of a general policy to set aside funds into a fixed asset capital equipment replacement account.

OPERATIONS REPORTS FOR WATER AND SEWER PLANTS.

Proposals for changes to the Rhode Island General Laws regarding Dig Safe notifications was received and reviewed by the superintendents.

• Sewer. R. Boucher reported that, since the upgrades were completed, the collection system was very tight against infiltration, only manhole gaskets remained to be installed. Block Island Maritime Institute is planning to install a pumpout system for the live aboards in the Hog Pen.

The Seawinds housing project was begun; the compacting test for sewer lines came back OK. The West Side Lane housing project will install a separate manhole on the West Side Road and not use the one for E. Searles Ball. Because the West Side Lane roadway is not planned to be surfaced, the Commission expressed serious concerns that there would be manhole problems when the twenty houses had to plow. A blocked sewer line was

discovered at the Govern property off Old Town Road; Valee Plumbing reported that the sewer line may have been cracked.

R. Boucher said that eleven trees by the aeration tanks must be removed; a quote of \$1,500 was received from Connelli to cut and remove the wood.

N. Dodge said that Van Lent Landscaping would remove the trees at no charge; they would be transplanted around Town at several places: Estes Park on Water Street, Early Learning Center, etc.

**MOTION:** by C. McGinnes to remove the trees, either by donation to the Community or by cutting them down. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to remove was:

AYE: 5 (McQueeney, McGinnes, Migliaccio, Rice, Thimble). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

- RI Septage Disposal Fee Update. R. Boucher reported that DEM remains undecided what to do about collection fees for the state.
- EPA RIDEM sponsored Asset Management Workshop with NWPCA.

Water. Meters. The Metron meters were installed in 2001, but each meter has a battery with life expectancy of five years. Metron has suggested replacing the transponders with 2-way communication units which have GPS and would also allow for remote data logging. The replacement program would be ~\$40K and could be covered by remaining funds in the water grant. R. Boucher offered to help the Water Company install the new meters in the spring; 90% of meters measure sewer flows.

**MOTION:** H. Rice to purchase the new equipment and accessories, upon approval by USDA D. Steere, with the remaining 2006 grant monies. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to remove was:

AYE: 5 (McQueeney, McGinnes, Migliaccio, Rice, Thimble). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

A new water line will be installed at Phelan's off Payne Road; the long private line has standing problems with leaks.

Sands Pond. D. Simmons suggested that if the original outlet for Sands Pond could be located and refurbished, then a natural flow might be returned to the Pond and also help restore its health. Historically, the Pond was emptied and farmed for peat to burn over the winter. The current condition of high phosphorus promotes algae growth and the pond inverts twice a year cycling algae from the bottom to the top.

- Wastewater Management Inspector's Report.

There are presently 29 outstanding NOV (notice of violation) with 4 additional homeowners receiving 2nd NOV with associated fines. Effective January 1, all septic systems in the state will be referred to as OWTS (On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems); the change will require the Town to update its 506 Zoning and Wastewater ordinances.

## 2. Final Draft for TNS Comprehensive Plan: Water, Sewer, Wastewater.

S. McQueeney volunteered to submit the final revisions next week; the draft was updated last month and the engineer's comments are to be added. C. McGinnes emphasized that it was important to include future distribution and collection areas to meet USDA funding requirements.

## 3. Report from November Retreat Meeting, Act to Complete Affordable Housing.

The Commissions all agreed that the day-long retreat was a resounding success and that another one may be planned for the spring. Six Commissioners and one facilitator attended. The meeting took place at George's of Galilee, who provided the rooms, refreshment and great food for an amazing \$190.

Among the topics discussed were finding new Commission members; three members volunteered to step aside if new members were found. D. Thimble agreed to take the reins of Sewer Chair from C. McGinnes who will remain on the Board as member or alternate.

4. Committee To Develop Mission Statement for The Sewer District and for The Water District. The need to develop a 'Mission Statement' came from the retreat meeting. The Mission Statement will be developed by C. McGinnes, S. McQueeney and R. Migliaccio and be complete before the end of this fiscal year

5. Approve Minutes of September 13, October 11 and 29, November 13 and 26.

**MOTION:** D. Thimble to approve the minutes as so submitted. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to remove was:

AYE: 5 (McQueeney, McGinnes, Migliaccio, Rice, Thimble). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

The Commissioners were asked to submit their winter vacation schedules so that quorums for meetings could be ascertained.

6. Correspondence, Announcements and Public Comment.

- November 15; Letizia Plumbing & Heating letter testifying to water loses at Spring House. The letter satisfies the requirement for rebate of fees at the hearing held November 13.
- November 20; Request by D. Simmons to exclude BIWC from EPA's UCMR 2 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation) which required monitoring of 25 additional contaminants.

**Adjourn.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6: 08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Ziegler  
District Clerk

Approved: January 8, 2008

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