

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
NEW SHOREHAM SEWER COMMISSION AND WATER COMMISSION

December 4, 2009 Minutes

Present were SEWER Commission members Vice-Chair Robby Brown, Tom Doyle, Sandra Finizia, Peter McNerney alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio and Clerk Janet Ziegler

Present were WATER Commission members Interim Chair Sandra Finizia, Wayne Battey, Robby Brown, Peter McNerney alternates Frank Leslie and Rally Migliaccio and Clerk Janet Ziegler

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

R. Brown Called the meeting to order at 1:10PM

SEWER COMMISSION Business

1. Elect Interim Sewer Chair.

The Sewer Commission's Chair resigned just prior to the last meeting.

MOTION: BY R. Migliaccio to elect R. Brown as Interim-Chair was seconded. A quorum was present and the vote was
AYE: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, Leslie, McNerney). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

R. Brown stated that he was willing to serve, but with advice that if the Town Council perceived any problems in the future with individual members, that they act with consideration directly with that member outside of a public venue or with the entire commission regarding their own elected officers.

2. Sewer Building Roof Options.

Engineer Geremia recommended addressing what were the causes for the fire on the sewer roof and resolve those issues first; the shake roof should last 50 years and had at least another 10 years left. The generators would not be put back in use until June, the time when two fiscal years were bridged. He cautioned against acting hastily replacing the entire roof, when the initial cause had not been resolved.

Start up of the generators is the issue and in the summer, with prevailing southerly winds any escaping spark is blown back toward the roof. Southwest Milton, the Caterpillar distributor, recommended spark arrestors and extending the stack height; we need to go back to the manufacturer and have them resolve the issue starting with Milton-Cat performing an on-site review. There was a roof fire ~ five years ago; for over 30 years there hasn't been had a problem, only in recent years has it become a problem.

C. McGinnes, Chief Operations office for BI Power Company (BIPCO), stated that the root cause of sparks was load, i.e., running the engines too low which causes a build up of carbon. When the engines are started, the carbon is blown up into the air and the spark ignites it. RI DEM Division of Air Quality regulates operation of generators in the state and oversees BIPCO. Geremia agreed that the current regulations should be looked at as a guide line.

MOTION: by P. McNerney to have a professional evaluation of the plant generators and present the Commission with a recommendation report and projected costs. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

AYE: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, Leslie, McNerney). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

The Commission asked that the superintendent contact Lambert Construction, who patch the roof, for permanent repairs.

3. December 14 Special Sewer Financial Meeting.

Sewer Financial Status, Proposed Assessment Structure, Set Time.

MOTION: by R. Brown that, in light of the professional appraisal just acted upon, that the special financial meeting to be held on December 14 be cancelled. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

AYE: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Finizia, Leslie, McNerney). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

4. Considerations for Propose Extension of the Sewer District on Center Road.

N. Pike stated that he received positive feedback from the sewer superintendent about the feasibility of connecting his lot to the sewer collection system. The next step would be to request to be included in the district boundaries. He discussed his plans with the affected neighbors and they were agreeable (one was present).

There was a discussion with Geremia regarding whether the site could be gravity fed or would require a pressure system. Geremia stated that if a pressurized system were required for the entire length, future growth and line size should be considered; a gravity line is less dependent on size and growth. There are seven lots south to Beach Avenue.

A discussion then ensued on the future possibility of extending the collection system south on Center Road to Beach Avenue and then east to Ocean Avenue, completing a circle. An future interest survey of all lots within that area was requested. Geremia said he would look into the technical details of connecting to the Pike property and report to the Commission in January.

MOTION: by R. Brown to agenda for the next meeting the recommendation to Town Council to add the lots. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

WATER COMMISSION Business**5. Proposed Extension of the Water Main on Ocean Avenue.**

D. Simmons stated that he had received a formal request to extend the water main 1,000 feet to Dead Eyes who needs it to install a sprinkler system as per state fire code. Discussions for funding have been initiated between Geremia, USDA and Atlantic States Rural Water. E. Taubman stated that if funding were available, E. Searles Ball would consider exploring the possibility of becoming a water customer (Mrs. Taubman is president of BIED who owns the property).

Geremia stated that the water users would bear the cost of water extensions. A return on investment needs to be carefully looked into. The proposed extension will be looked at in two parts, 1) from Trims' Bridge to Dead Eyes, approximately 1,000 feet and 2) from Dead Eyes to E. Searles Ball, approximately 2,500 feet.

Geremia cautioned the commission that the state will require an archeological assessment survey be performed and that the area was fairly sensitive; this should be the first step to complete to find out if the project can be moved forward. The water line needs to cross the bridge, state plans need to be pulled and check; no one could recall whether empty chases had been installed in the bridge.

SEWER and WATER COMMISSION Joint Business**6. Announcements and Public Forum.**

Meeting Packages at Sewer Plant. Recent changes in the operations of the U.S. Postal service requires Block Island mail to be sent to Providence for sorting, then returned to the island for distribution. Since meeting packages are mailed out on Thursday for the Monday meetings, this presents a potential timing problem in that commissioners may not receive their packages before the meeting.

The Commissioners agreed that mail boxes for members and the support staff would be installed at the sewer plant location (a convenient downtown location and opened 7 days a week) and that meeting packages would henceforth be made available there. E-mails would be sent out when packages are available for pickup.

MOTION: by R. Brown to adjourn the joint meeting was seconded and unanimously approved by all water and sewer commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ziegler, District Clerk
Approved: December 14, 2009



every drop counts

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