

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

February 12, 2008 Minutes

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

Absent were members Ann Cunningham, Frank Leslie.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons, Counsel Elliot Taubman, Dan Silverman representing the Hill at Mill Pond, Jessica Veldman and Wayne Battey.

Absent was Finance Director Amy Lewis.

C. McGinnes called the meeting to order at 4:33 P.M.

1. Request by Hill at Mill Pond for Payment Plan and Waiver of Sewer/Water Penalty Charges.

(Continued from January 8 meeting) Dan Silverman, son of Carol Silverman one of the owners, was present and explained the nature of the underground leak last summer, the attempts and final repairs by Tripler Plumbing last October. A letter was received from John Triple testifying that water from the leak did not enter the sewer collection system.

**MOTION:** by D. Thimble to credit the sewer account with the difference between average summer usage and that metered, a sum of 117,500 gallons and that the sewer penalties be removed; additionally to grant, as requested, a payment plan for both water and sewer accounts beginning March 2008 and ending October 31 2008 to cover balances due and estimated usage. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to grant the requests was:

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

The motion carried.

(S. McQueeny arrived at 4:40 PM)

2. Reports from Officials.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING.

- Request for NSSC Employee Sick Policy by C. Blane. (Continued from January 8<sup>th</sup>).

N. Dodge circulated the Town's sick leave policy. Both of the superintendents stated that they were in full agreement and accepted all the policies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. R. Boucher said that C. Blane was in full agreement with the written policy and declined to attend the meeting. E. Taubman said that the Sewer Commission also voted to follow the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and its employees.

**MOTION:** by D. Thimble to ratify the adoption of this particular section.

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

The motion carried.

- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Deadline Information.

N. Dodge reported that requests from all Towns are due into the State by April 17 and will be awarded in July/August. It's unknown at this time whether other organizations in the Town would be applying for the same funds. Because sewer's two affordable apartments have already been framed in, the funding request should be worded for projects stages or for phases as the state does not fund projects retroactively or that are deemed started.

N. Dodge recommended proceeding with asking the District voters to approve spending reserve funds for construction of the apartments; just in case the State's CDBG grant were not awarded, the Commission would still have approval of funds to move forward on the project.

**MOTION:** by D. Thimble to proceed with both applications for the CDBG funds and the request from District voters for permission to spend funds from reserves to finish construction of the two apartments.

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

H. Rice, school bus driver, noted that the new asphalt laid last fall on High Street was breaking up in several places and said that it's a sign that the asphalt might have not been heated to the correct temperature when it was laid. Additionally, he added, Old Town Road was in bad shape. N. Dodge responded that repairs to the Town owned Old Town Road was in the capital budget for 2012. S. McQueeney, who works as crew for the Town Highway department, noted that the State would require a full binder on West Side Road where a new manhole was installed for the West Side Lane housing project – the roadway was torn up in order to install laterals to the project.

#### FINANCE.

- Financial Reports January 2008. n/a

- Special Financial Meeting of the Sewer & Water Districts, March 25. Recommendations to Discharge USDA Water Loans. Reallocate Funds to Assign Reserves for Capital Projects: Renovation of Service Building for Affordable Apartments.

In a memo received February 6, A. Lewis recommended requesting authority from the water rate payers to pay off USDA loan 91-50 the original amount of \$109K and the current balance is \$106,791. For FY 2009, she recommended the Water Board budget to pay off loan 91-48, approximately \$176K.

C. McGinnes announced that each District would contribute \$75K from their reserves to fund the construction of the Commission's apartments. R. Boucher volunteered to research the criteria that CDBG mandates for applicants for the affordable apartments and what other requirements may be attached to the State funding.

**MOTION:** by R. Migliaccio call for a Special Financial Meeting on March 25 of the rate payers to retire water loan 91-50 and the allocate reserve funds of \$75K from each District to finish construction the two affordable apartments. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for a special meeting was:

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

The motion carried.

- Rate Design: Review RCAP Draft "Survey of Water Customers".

A draft survey was received and distributed. The Board expressed interest last month in contacting well users in the Water District to poll them for interest in connecting to the municipal water system.

#### WATER/SEWER PLANT OPERATIONS.

##### WATER.

- Change to Emergency Road Work Contract; Conditions for Mandatory Water Connections.

Circumstances arose recently that all Contract personnel was off-island at the same time; there was no advance notice or communication. N. Dodge stated that the contractor is responsible to arrange for coverage at all time and/or to provide substitute work at the same contract costs. C. McGinnes volunteered to contact A. Transue to correct the situation.

- Conditions for Mandatory Water Connections.

D. Simmons noted that the Water Rules reads that "All new construction or renovation (as defined by the State Building Code at the time of application) of commercial, residential, public, or private premises within the Water District must connect to the municipal water". He noted that there are several extensive renovation projects

underway by people who now serviced by well sources. It would be timely to start enforcing the regulation if the Board wanted more municipal water users.

E. Taubman stated that a major renovation is defined as representing fifty-percent (50%) of a property's valuation. N. Dodge stated that the wording was "any" renovation and that how much of a renovation was not an implied issue. E. Taubman agreed to provide language at the next meeting to clarify the Rule. C. McGinnes noted that the enforcement may be a matter that the Building Official should control with Planning and Zoning approvals. D. Thimble agreed to look into the Building Code language.

The "Draft Water Quality Restoration Study for Sands Pond" was released. The RI Department of Environmental Management will accept written comments on the draft through March 10, 2008. Copies will be made available at Town Hall, the Island Free Library or on the web at [www.blockislandwater.org](http://www.blockislandwater.org) or from DEM's web site.

#### SEWER.

- Electric/fuel Charges.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for alternative energy. E. Taubman and H. Rice offered several leads to the superintendent to follow up. N. Dodge stated that at the next Town Council meeting on March 3, they will address needs in the Town for a possible USDA grant; she recommended that both sewer and water superintendents attend the meeting. C. McGinnes noted that the sewer treatment plant was using more kilowatts this year than before.

- Removal of Trees by Aeration Tanks.

R. Boucher stated that the twelve trees must be removed because the leaves are fouling the tanks in the fall, netting the leaves was impractical and the cost of bringing tree removal equipment to the island was exorbitant. Landscape Architect D. Van Lent agreed to look into relocating the trees as several would survive transplanting. The Chair stated that he was not in favor of cutting the trees down.

- RI Septage Disposal Fee Update. No information was available.

R. Boucher announced that plans for the repairs to Govern's lateral line had changed; the current feeling was to access the invert from the Dodge Street side of the property rather than from Old Town Road. E. Taubman noted that a foreclosure was pending for sewer customer Champlin's Marina, but that is was related to the fire which occurred in their generator building. Also noted was that an "Addendum" to the Sewer Facility Plan was submitted by J. Geremia's office to RI DEM.

#### WASTEWATER INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

D. Thimble reported that RI DEM needs to be aware of local controls in place, an installation approval by local ordinance is required, in-addition to DEM approval. Chris Dovidio, of Merolla and Accetturo in Warwick, is working on updating the Town's Wastewater Management Ordinance; final approvals will be by Town Council, Planning and Zoning.

3. TNS Comprehensive Plan. N. Dodge announced that the plan had been submitted to the State.
4. Changes to The Management Agreement. E. Taubman changes would be ready for April's meeting.
5. Committee to Develop Mission Statement for The Sewer District and for The Water District. C. McGinnes said that he has copies of two Statement examples.
6. Parking Lot Project. 2008 Permit Sales Strategy, Maintenance, Enforcement.

Permits should be available to go on sale in March. Costs of the seasonal Permits for the last two years were \$350 and guarantee a space in the lot; previous Permit holders are given first renewal rights. The Parking committee, S. McQueeny and R. Migliaccio, were asked to make recommendations for this year.

H. Rice, representing the Block Island Chamber of Commerce, inquired whether their storage trailer could be stored at the Parking lot and whether the Commission would consider discounting the \$350 seasonal Permit fee. The subject will be put on the next agenda.

7. Correspondence and Public Comment.

- January 11. Copy of J. Geremia's letter to DEM pleading for a May start date for Block Island Water Company's RIPDES and for sewer capacity increase from 0.3 MGD to 0.45MGD.
- January 30. Copy of Letter and Attachments from Geremia & Associates to A. Zeman, DEM Water Resources, with updates to the Wastewater management Facilities Plan.
- January 30. Copy of Updates to the Wastewater Facilities Plan was sent to DEM from Geremia's office.
- February 7. Letter and Attachments from K. Chantrell, DEM Water Resources, announcing the publication of the final draft for Sands Pond restoration study; comments will be accepted until March 10, 2008.
- February 11. The Chair read a letter submitted by Wayne Battey expressing interest in becoming a Sewer Commission member. Although there are no current vacancies, the interest was appreciated and will be kept on file for future reference.

**Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** by H. Rice to adjourn the meeting and that the time period for the filing of the minutes be extended to 75 days from today's date. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to adjourn was unanimously approved by all members present.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ziegler

District Clerk

Approved: March 11, 2008

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