

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

July 17, 2007 Minutes

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

Absent was member Howie Rice.

Also present were Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons, and Counsel Elliot Taubman.

Absent were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge and Finance Director Amy Lewis.

Sewer Chair C. McGinnes called the meeting to order at 4:34 P.M. F. Leslie will not be voting.

1. Hearing: Appeal of Grease Trap Violation/Fine, R. Tretheway for Sharkeys.

C. McGinnes reported that R. Tretheway could not make the meeting and has withdrawn his request.

Responding to a question on the procedure for inspections, R. Boucher stated that an annual letter is sent to all restaurant owners with grease traps. Most owners are responsive and cooperative, but some are not. This year the grease buildup in the pump stations is at a point where the staff can no longer keep up. Grease trap inspections are performed once a week through the summer.

2. Reports from Officials.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING.

- 2006 USDA Sewer Grant:: Act on Change Order #3 to Install New Radiators, Supports, Controls, Piping And Valves on Generators.

The Commission agreed to delay action on the Change Order until N. Dodge arrived.

FINANCE.

- June Balance Sheets, Aging Report. n/a

WATER/SEWER PLANT OPERATIONS.

SEWER. R. Boucher read the monthly statistics in his report. Influent, for the month, was down 8 percent relative to last year's flows. Grease remains a constant concern and parts of the collection system will require professional cleaning at the end of the season. He suggested a surcharge on grease trap customers to pay for the cleaning, estimated at \$10K.

It was reported that R. Batchelder, installing a drinking water well on High Street, drilled through the home's sanitary sewer line. Approximately twenty feet of new line had to be installed to restore service. The incident was reported to RI DEM (Department of Environmental Management).

WATER. Sands Ponds level has abated and the spring algae growth is very active, however fish activity is good. Water production was similar to last year's - which was a banner year.

An old private line (galvanized/copper mixture) emanating from a curb stop at the corner of Payne Rd & Pilot Hill needs to be replaced; cost estimated at \$6K. Additionally, another line from this point crosses Pilot Hill and feeds the house next to where the cement boat used to be. E. Taubman said that the recently adopted Regulations do not allow for new lines to be installed in a public ROW (right-of-way). The original curb stops may be moved.

Roofing bids are being sought for installation this fall. C. McGinnes cautioned that installing lightning rods on the roof could equally attract - as well as protect - unless they were expertly grounded.

Bids for a new water truck were received, a truck order and the purchase was received.

MOTION: by R. Migliaccio to donate the used water truck, upon recommendation by the water superintendent, to the Town of New Shoreham. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to accept was:

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

The motion carried.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

- Proposed Changes to the Wastewater Management Ordinance (WWMO): Section 9.6 Penalties Recommendations by RI DEM for Proposed Changes to System Regulations.

D. Thimble reported that RI DEM has proposed extensive changes to the State's Septic System Regulations. One change is that septic systems, or ISDS (individual septic disposal system), will now be referred to only as OWTS (onsite wastewater treatment systems). DEM is in the process of accepting public comment and he suggested that the Town should actively be involved.

The Commission and Counsel agreed that the Town's Wastewater Management (WWM) Ordinance was in conflict with how the office is actually run and was beyond the band-aid stage. With new State regulations being developed, it would be an opportunity for the Town Solicitor, working in concert with the Wastewater Management department, to recreate a new Ordinance.

- Process of Collecting Fines and July 2 Letter from WWMI regarding initiation of fines.

D. Thimble reminded the Commission that fines for non-compliance commenced on July 2; the collection process has not yet been worked out. E. Taubman stated that the collected money is earmarked to go directly to the WWM office. Since the Finance Director was absent, the subject shall be agended for the next meeting.

To a question posed by K. Gaffett as to why composting/incinerating toilets were not permitted at the Town level, the Commission had no reply. She suggested that there were several outlying locations where an installation would well serve the public and provide sanitation for the environment. The toilets are permitted by the State.

3. Parking Lot Project.

- Sprague Farm Invoice. In a March 26 2007 meeting with Sprague Farm, J. Geremia, N. Dodge and others, J. Sprague agreed to finish the improvements to the Sewer Commission parking lot (minus guardrails) for \$15K-\$20K under the Town contact. The bill received (minus guardrails) was just over \$42K. C. McGinnes said that he will be meeting with J. Geremia next week and will ask he and N. Dodge to sign off on the bill if they think it is appropriate.

S. McQueeney said that a new sign, in a section of the Post Office parking lot, reads 'by Permit Only' and is confusing because the Sewer Commission's parking sign is also "Permit Only". C. McGinnes volunteered to meet with Phillips, the owner.

- Requests for Refund.

Two parking lot Permit holders have asked for a refund due to repeated vandalism to their auto. The placards, copied from the State Dem parking lot in Galilee, states that the "holder may park in this area at his own risk of any fire, theft or damage to auto or contents or same". The Sewer Commissioners agreed to deny the request.

- Repair to Harbor Church Fence.

Noted was that J. Sprague had removed several sections of the church's fence to access and remove top soil in the parking lot. Additional damage to the fence incurred. R. Boucher volunteered to meet with the Church.

MOTION: by R. Migliaccio to amend the agenda and return to the Change Order item under Director of Public Works. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to amend was unanimously approved by all members present.

- 2006 USDA Sewer Grant:: Act on Change Order #3 to Install New Radiators, Supports, Controls, Piping And Valves on Generators. R. Boucher reported that Geremia had spec'ed out, with Lydon Millwright Services, two replacement heat exchangers for the generators; the cost would be covered from funds from this year's clarifier grant. Installation will be completed in the fall after the sewer plant goes back onto the grid. The radiators are the last weak spot remaining.

MOTION: by A. Cunningham to accept Change Order #3 rev. 2 "Water Pollution Control Facility Process Improvements – Headworks and Rectangular Settling Tanks" from Lydon Millwright Services upon the recommendation of the engineer J. Geremia and as specified in a letter dated July 16, 2007 for a lump sum price of \$76,000. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to accept was:

AYE: (Cunningham, McGinnes, McQueeney, Migliaccio, Thimble). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.
The motion carried.

4. New Business.

- Future Plans for Handling Sewer Grease Problem.

R. Boucher asks the Commission to consider adding a surcharge to sewer customers with grease traps. The grease buildup is more than the staff and equipment we can handle. A surcharge would fund jetting and cleaning of special areas in the commercial areas. Every year is worse; at Ocean Avenue pump station #1, two feet of grease built up within three weeks. We can take the grease out of wet wells, but not the collection lines. Two years ago, McVac cleaned out lines for ~\$10K and this is the last year they are holding to the same price.

The Commission responded that cleaning and jetting the collection lines was a customary activity that is covered in the normal operating budget, there should not be an additional charge to some customers.

- Sewer Commission/Water Board Retreat.

C. McGinnes suggested that the Commission/Board take a day in the fall and throw around ideas about the future of the Commission, the staff, the sewer plant and the water company. A. Cunningham, who often attended corporate retreats, said that having a professional facilitator enables discussion and keeps the group focused on specific problems or thinking more broadly. The idea of a retreat was well received by all and S. McQueeney suggest engineer J. Geremia as a facilitator. The Chair beseeched the Commission/Board to come up with topics for discussion and to submit them directly to him.

K. Gaffett, the Town's First Warden, said that the Town Council has found retreats to be very productive in the past and noted that the retreat is posted as a public meeting.

- Approve Minutes of May 8, 22, 29 and June 8, 12, 22.

MOTION: by D. Thimble to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to approve was unanimous from all members present.

The motion carried.

5. Correspondence and Public Comment.

K. Gaffett inquired about the wet conditions on Water Street which seems to be emanating from the Sewer Commission's ROW to the plant. R. Boucher responded that the weeping is fresh water; it has been tested many times and is not a municipal source. At one time, it was dug up and there was an old clay drainage pipe, probably from the old Ocean View Hotel, which is likely being fed by the surrounding swamp area.

- June 4. Great Salt Pond's First Bacteria Report of 2007. There were no comments.

- June 21. Copy of Letter to N. Dodge from Attorney G. Rinaldi re: Town of New Shoreham and RI Council 94. The Town's attorney reported that the State Labor Board dismissed Council 94's petition to accrete certain employees of the Sewer Commission. Council 94, the local chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, represents most of the Town's employees. It was noted that Council 94 had thirty days to appeal the State Labor Board's decision.

Adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ziegler
District Clerk
Approved: August 7, 2007

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