

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

May 27, 2008 Minutes

Present were members Cliff McGinnes, Rally Migliaccio, Bob Pokraka, Howie Rice, Water Alternate Ann Cunningham, Sewer Alternate Frank Leslie and District Clerk Janet Ziegler. Absent were members Steve McQueeny, Don Thimble, Robby Brown.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Lewis, Superintendents Ray Boucher and Dave Simmons, and Town Councilor Dr. Baute.

Absent was Counsel Elliot Taubman.

C. McGinnes called the meeting to order at 4:32 P.M.

The Chair welcomed new member Bob Pokraka who was appointed to a five-year term. Additionally, A. Cunningham was appointed as a Water Board alternate and F. Leslie was appointed as a Sewer Board alternate. C. McGinnes reported that S. McQueeny would not be present and that he would not accept a position as a Water Board alternate.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to first consider item six. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for change was unanimously approved.

6. RIGL 38-2-7(b) Extension of Time to Provide Public Records, E. Taubman.

C. McGinnes said that a request for sewer records by Goldberg Law Offices regarding Champlin's Marina was received. The public records requested include minutes, billings, flow and pump meter reading from January 1, 2003 to present. Since there is a lot of copying to do, RI State Law Access to Public Records allows for a 30-day extension.

MOTION: by C. McGinnes to ask Goldberg's office for a 30 day extension to comply with the requests. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to request was:

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

The motion carried. E. Taubman will respond.

1. Financial Report April 2008.

Sewer. Year to date revenues represent 61% of the budgeted amount compared to 65% at this point last year. Expenses are in line with last year, however a significant debt service is due before the end of the fiscal year and electricity will be ~\$20K over budget. The switch off the grid to generator power occurred May 1. The cash position is low since there have been high payments (\$168.6K) for construction improvements; cash should be reimbursed by end of the month by USDA.

Water: Although user fee revenue have been down, strong penalty fee revenue has offset the number. The USDA Water loan paid was paid off as authorized at the Special Financial meeting.

2. Act on Adding Fuel Adjustment Charge To Utility Bills.

A. Lewis reported that this is a new concept for her department. Although she has been working on the concept for 6 weeks, more time is needed to vet numbers and the process; the process should be well worked out before implemented. H. Rice suggested that she speak with the Town of Narragansett as they have a energy adjustment on their utility bills.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

Adopt FY 2009 New Shoreham Sewer District Budgets for Posting.

Noted was that the budget contains a 4.4% user fee increase across the board. Figures for electricity and fuel oil came from this year's figures plus 10% and are a large portion of the budget. There should be a strong financial evaluation in 6 months; an energy charge could be implemented at that time. There was a discussion on the realistic outlook for the summer season. R. Migliaccio expects lower flows from the marina area (some of the largest sewer users); frequent trip boaters are cancelling reservations, while those with long reservations are unchanged. H. Rice added that increased freight charges would affect everything.

MOTION: by H. Rice to adopt the FY 2009 sewer budget as presented for posting. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to post was:

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

The motion carried.

A. Lewis asked that the energy adjustment be kept on the agenda until resolved.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

Adopt FY 2009 New Shoreham Water District Budgets for Posting. A. Lewis stated that the 2003 USDA loan had been paid off.

MOTION: to adopt the FY 2009 water budget as presented for posting. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote to post was:

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

The motion carried.

C. McGinnes stated that he would be stepping down as Sewer and Water Commissioner as of July 18, after the Annual Financial meetings. He stated that he was proud of the accomplishments both Boards have done for the sewer and water plants. His resignation is final and not negotiable.

C. McGinnes said that a letter from E. Blane was received today requesting that future meetings be held at Town Hall which has facilities for the hearing impaired. The letter will be agended for the June 10 meeting.

Jim Geremia has asked for a separate meeting to go over the new discharge permits for water and for sewer. A special meeting will be schedule just before the monthly meeting on June 10.

Adjourn.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ziegler, District Clerk
Approved: June 10, 2008

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