

NEW SHOREHAM SEWER DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING
October 19, 2009 Minutes

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

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Lewis, Superintendent Ray Boucher, and Attorney Elliot Taubman.

J. Howarth called the meeting to order at 5:55 P.M.

1. Approve Minutes: September 21 Worksession, September 21 Joint and September 21 monthly meeting.

E. Taubman commented on his statement reported at the September 21 monthly meeting that "According to Robert's Rules, the August 17 vote to reconsider may be carried by a simple majority vote and therefore the vote stands." and STATED that the August 17 vote was actually a unanimous vote because of the three people voting, they all voted aye (two members abstained).

MOTION: by J. Howarth to accept the minutes of September 21 Worksession and the monthly meeting noting comments by E. Taubman..

2. Reports from Officials.

Director of Public Works and Engineering.

Communications and Alarms. N. Dodge said that she had reported on this in the preceding water meeting.

Review/Act on Bids for Roof Repairs. A protracted discussion ensued on whether to patch the section of the roof damaged by fire or to replace the entire roof as had been considered for the last several years. A. Land said that sewer had \$10K in its contingency line and when you exceed your budget, you must go to the rate payers for approval.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to go to the Sewer District rate payer for funding by special assessment to replace the roof. The motion was seconded a quorum was present and the vote to hold a Special Financial Meeting was:

AYE: 4 (Brown, Finizia, Howarth, McNerney). NAY: 1 (Doyle). ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

A. Land suggested setting the date for the December meeting so that the proper procedures could be started. The structure of the assessment could be discussed at another time.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to set the date of the Special Financial Meeting of the Sewer District for December 14 to pay for replacement of the roof. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

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

The motion carried.

Three bids were received to replace the roof: \$27,500; \$34,000; \$37,200.

Finance.

Financial Report for September, Aging Report. A. Land reported that user fee revenues were at the same point as last year and expenses were adequately being held down. Developing a liquidity report is important for ensuring you can meet your short-term cash requirements and is just as important as the revenue/expense lines; this will be reported on more frequently in the future.

Sewer Plant Operations. R. Boucher stated that treatment is four percent lower than last year's figures. Although new applications for the job posting are coming in, he suggested, because there was no labor shortage during winter months, holding off until mid-year before hiring another employee.

Tree Management. R. Boucher reported that no other trees could be transplanted and asked that the Commission grant permission to clear cut the rest of the area: six large maple trees, two small trees and one bush.

The price to remove all is less than \$2K and is in the budget.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to obtain three bids to remove the nine trees and have them removed by the lowest bidder. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

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

The motion carried.

Responding to a question from K. Gaffett, Boucher said that plant personal raked leaves every day and they were a problem in the treatment basins and pumps.

Recommendation for CAC & allocation. R. Boucher reported on the summer's operating data.

MOTION: by T. Doyle to accept the recommendations of the Sewer Superintendent and Engineer Jim Geremia, to set available sewer allocation for the next twelve months to 160,968 gallons per day to be divided 25% for public projects and 75% for private, and to set the price of new or increased allocation use to \$4.12 per gallon. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for capacity and cost was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Brown, Finizia, Howarth, McNerney). NAY: Ø. ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

Sewer Commission

Report of Evaluation Committee. J. Howarth reported that the committee met individually with the two superintendents and clerk to explore their roles.

Reconsider Vote to Provide Cost of Health Benefits for Clerk. J. Howarth stated that the original unanimous vote to cover benefits was on July 31 and we were asked to revisit that decision at the last several meetings.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to reaffirm the original motion to provide coverage for the Clerk's Blue Cross Classic health insurance plan. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

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

The motion carried.

The commission agreed that health coverage for all sewer employees should be equitable and that benefits would be revisited when the next budget is considered.

Consider Request For Bid: Attorney Services. E. Taubman asked that the item be postponed to November.

3. Service Building Renovations. S. Finizia reported that the Building Official has issued an unrestrained Certificate of Occupancy and that conditions had been met. N. Dodge asked that the Commission approve the final invoices from the contractors.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to pay Vallee Plumbing in full. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

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

The motion carried.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to pay Lambert Construction in full. The bills were reviewed and R. Boucher reported that all items had been completed. The north door may have a leak in a driving north wind, but cannot be remedied. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

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

The motion carried.

4. Correspondence. *none*

5. Announcements and Open Forum (Public Input).

- October 22, Thursday, 7:00 pm Town Hall: Meeting with RI Ethics Commission to discuss Code, questions and answers.
- October 27, Tuesday, 4:30 pm Town Hall: FY 2009 Exit Audit Report.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ziegler

Approved: November 16, 2009