

New Shoreham Water District Monthly Meeting
October 19, 2009 Minutes

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

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

S. Finizia called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M

1. Approve Minutes September 21.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to accept the minutes of the September 21 Monthly and September 21 Joint meetings as distributed was seconded and unanimously approved.

The motion carried.

2. Reports from Officials.

- Director of Public Works and Engineering.

Communications and Alarms. N. Dodge reported that the radio boxes are expected to arrive the first week of November.

- Finance.

Financial Report for September. A. Land reported that revenues from third quarter penalties were less than last year's and attributed it to less water being used by customers. Although water's revenues were down, expenses have appropriately been scaled back to balance the situation. There are no active grants this year.

Aging Report. A. Land stated that most of the accounts listed are the normal course of behavior for those people; her department will begin to enforce collections again now that finance is fully staffed. Establishments with liquor licenses have to be paid up in order to renew in November; those who have seasonal accounts will not have service re-installed in the spring until the accounts are paid in full.

- Water Plant Operations.

Councilor Peter Baute announced that South County Planning Group would be on island this Wednesday to explore energy conservation within the town. With water's budget of \$55K for electricity use, we would hope that the Water and Sewer Commissioners would be interested in participating. The Council will discuss on Wednesday whether the energy audits would include the water and sewer plants.

D. Simmons reported that water usage was up 3% for the summer quarter. An inordinate number of leaks and repairs to the system took a toll on the budgeted 'system maintenance' line, however, savings were realized in the electricity line in both usage and rate decreases for fuel adjustment charges.

Summer Recap Report. Simmons stated that water rates have not been raised for 10 years, over which time the plant has added more production capacity and replaced/installed new water mains. Recently, there have been several requests to extend the water main 1,000 feet into the New Harbor area to Dead Eyes. The new fire codes require any restaurant that seats 100 or more to have a sprinkler system – and wells cannot satisfy those demands. Grant/loans, in 25% / 75% ratio, are available for 'health and safety'. A discussion followed regarding mandates for abutting properties to hook up (sewer has this requirement, water does not), usage requirements and infrastructure costs.

The Commission received summer flow data, plant production and debt service figures to set available allocation and cost of Contribution in Aid of Construction.

MOTION: by S. Finizia, based on the recommendations of the Water Superintendent and Engineer Jim Geremia, to set available allocation for the next twelve months to 37,334 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 \$8.73 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.

- Water Commission.

Consider Request For Bid: Attorney Services. N. Dodge said that yearly appointments for Town legal services are made in December each year. E. Taubman asked that the item be postponed to November.

3. Ratify Public Hearing Date of November 16 to Amend New Shoreham Water District's Rules and Regulations to add the proposed "Section 8. Cross-Connection Control Program" and the associated additions to "Section 1. Definitions".

E. Taubman suggested that, although there were no laws that cover the posting time, the proposed changes be posted for 30 days. Simmons added that there were other changes that needed to be added, but that the section regarding Cross-Connections had to be in place by the end of the year.

MOTION: by J. Howarth to set the Public Hearing date for November 16 and post a notice for 25 days. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote for a Public Hearing on November 16 was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Brown, Leslie, Howarth, McNerney) NAY: Ø Abstain: Ø

The motion carried.

4. Correspondence. *none*

5. Announcements and Open Forum (Public Input).

- October 22, 7:00 PM Town Hall. RI Ethics Commission to be on island. Public Meeting to discuss Codes and answer questions.
- October 27, 4:00PM Town Hall. Exit Audit FY 2009 on Town Finances.

MOTION: by S. Finizia to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ziegler

Approved: November 16, 2009