

Newington Sewer Commission 10/16/2019 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, J.Tolman, Utility Partners. J.Mercer, Wright-Pierce Engineers. D.Bebis, L.Cote, M.Cardin Eversource. D.Zarta Gier, GZA Consulting.

Minutes: Minutes from 9/18/19 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: Discussion with Eversource and GZA regarding the Seacoast Reliability Project (SRP). Notes under New Business.

Treasurer's report: September Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance was \$994,684.78. Operating Fund ending balance in September was \$866,403.17. 2019 Budget reviewed.

Manifest Approval: Discussion on bill from Novel Iron Works. NIV requested 75% payment up front to pay for steel. Quote and motion made at September meeting specified payment upon completion. Motion by R.Stern to not send a payment to NIV for \$21,000, 2nd by Tom, all in favor, approved. Manifest total of \$80,074.10 adjusted to \$59,074.10.

Motion made to approve the amended 10/16/19 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$59,074.10. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved & signed.

Motion to accept a second manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$1,891.00 for the Wetlands Permit that was approved at the September 18, 2019 meeting. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved & signed.

Plant operators report: Flows are down from last year, sludge as billed. Preventative maintenance was performed per manufacturers recommendations and schedules.

Discussed letter from Casella organics regarding a 2% CPI rate increase as of 9/1/19. Tipping fees will increase from \$145.97 to \$148.89 per ton. The last increase was in 2017.

The second Biotoxicity test was performed and passed. Second round of industrial samples were completed. Reviewed emails forwarded from the Town Planner from Stoneface Brewing regarding the increase in sewer rates. Discussion ensued on sewer rates in nearby towns and costs or projected costs of their upgrade projects to meet EPA guidelines.

Completed shop drawings from Novel Iron Works were sent to the Engineers to review.

New Business: M.Cardin Eversource Compliance Manager for the Seacoast Reliability Project (SRP), D.Bebis Eversource Environmental, L.Cote Eversource, and D.Zarta Gier, GZA Consultant to the SRP, were present to discuss discharging treated groundwater into the wastewater system. The Commissioners were presented with a detailed packed of the groundwater treatment system as well as copies of emails from D.Zarta Gier, Attorney A.McEachern, and Town Counsel J.Ratigan.

D.Zarta Gier and D.Bebis initially approached D.Messier to discharge treated groundwater into the wastewater system. After acceptance by D.Messier, the Board of Selectmen raised concerns and instructed Town Counsel to contact the Sewer Commission Attorney to stop the discharge into the wastewater system.

M.Cardin advised there are underground components and concrete foundations in the SRP. Eversource is required as part of their permit to manage any groundwater from the project. Any construction ground water must be tanked and dewatered. They currently have 2 treatment locations set up locally. D.Hebert was appointed to be their liaison, but he

was away, and they approached the WWTP directly. Currently they are treating and discharging into a stream on the Frink Farm which meets the State permit. The treatment system is designed to treat the highest level of PFOA's. They are before the Commission to discuss discharging into the wastewater system after treatment.

D.Bebis stated that when the Frink Farm portion of the project is completed, they would need to move their filtration system to another location. They would like to centralize and set up one system to minimize moving the treatment systems from site to site. R.Stern asked how much water is being released into the brook, D.Zarta Gier advised approximately 3 gal/min and discharge only occurs when supervised by a member of her staff. The water is pumped to a tank and treated, pumped to a holding tank, tested, and after test result come back clean the water is discharged. The permit allows them to discharge up to 1,500 gal/day. However, they can get backed up and cannot exceed the stream flow on site. R.Stern then asked how the filters are disposed of. D.Zarta Gier advised they are recycled through a vendor. Questions were asked about contaminated soil, Eversource has a mitigation plan in place for soil.

Eversource is researching several water discharge options, but the wastewater system is the best choice. The treated water will then go through further filtration at the WWTP and would be cleaner than it would just being discharged into a stream, river, or bay. GZA is on site testing all ground water. Copies of the most recent water testing results from the Frink Farm were presented and reviewed. The treatment system that is set up meets and produces a filtered product below State and EPA standards. Eversource is waiting on the results of the latest treatment at the Shattuck Way treatment area. The Commissioners and the WWTP will only accept discharge that meets or is lower than the NH Drinking Water Standard for PFOA's.

T.Hazelton inquired as to the length of the project. M.Cardin advised it will be ongoing. They will be doing direct embeds throughout the winter, 10-12 direct embedded poles. There is a 4' hole to excavate and groundwater to mitigate. Most of the big generation for water will be for the concrete foundations, all but 1 left on Rte 16 have been completed. D.Zarta Gier added that they collect, treat, test and discharge – but are not discharging daily. They are approaching the Commission now to make sure there is enough time. Each round of testing takes approximately 90 days. No water will be discharged prior to review of the testing results with D.Messier as he is the certified plant operator, and he can refuse the discharge. D.Messier advised there are no current limits of PFOAs coming in or out of the plant, if the State of NH did establish a limit it would not be retroactive. Our last sludge test results indicated there are no detectable PFOAs in our sludge.

Eversource would like to discharge into a manhole cover, D.Messier would prefer a manhole on Old Dover Road to avoid any issues to traffic on Shattuck Way. There will be a daily flow limit. A flow meter will be used to record the discharge and a member of GZA will be present during discharge. Any issues or concerns will be discussed directly with D.Messier. A copy of all testing results will be sent to D.Messier before any discharge. Eversource will be billed \$ 0.07/gal for the discharge, a rate higher than the normal sewer user charge.

Discussion turned to the email from Town Counsel stating the Selectmen were against the plan. It was agreed that the Selectmen may not have been aware that all water was being treated and tested first. Eversource originally planned to treat and discharge locally, but due to quantity of water and construction changes they are looking at treating more water than originally realized. It's not just water displaced to form the concrete foundations, it's from trenching as well. Eversource is required by their permit to treat the water so that the contamination does not spread further.

GZA is contracted to handle the field logistics of soil to be removed and ground water. There were enough field changes that there was more water to be handled on site. D.Messier advised that 250,000 gals over 3 months can be handled by the plant. Flows are down and the water would not be discharged overnight. T.Hazelton advised he does not see any issues with this plan, R.Stern concurred that he would rather see the water receiving additional treatment here versus being discharged into the river. D.Messier added that if he felt there were any concerns of issues then this meeting with Eversource would not have been scheduled.

D.Zarta Gier agreed with the process. She has met with D.Messier and WWTP staff to review all the details and answered a lot of questions prior to sending her summary email to obtain approval. T.Hazelton inquired if the Board of

Selectmen have been contacted and was advised that D.Hebert has been notified and is now aware that the groundwater is being treated prior to discharge.

All documentation on the filtration system was reviewed. Ground water will process through 2 cartridge filters and then pumped to frac tanks to remove suspended solids. The water will sit in the tanks to let the solids settle, and then will filter through bag filters to pull out more solids. There has been very little turbidity. The water will then be filtered through 2 1,000-lb reactive carbon filters to pull out any PFOAs of concern. The filtration system was designed to treat the highest pre-filtered sample level taken in a previous test. The water will be pumped to another tank and tested. If test results are clear the water will be discharged. If not, the water will be treated again. A final test will be completed prior to release into the wastewater system. GZA anticipates test results will show ND PFOA levels. Discharge will be over a 6-8 hour period on Old Dover Rd to keep flow rates manageable. D.Zarta Gier advised an 8,000-gal/day average at a rate not to exceed 20 gpm. D.Messier advised the wastewater system max would be 12,000-gal/day. No discharge would occur during storm events and D.Messier would be contacted prior to any discharge.

Discussion turned to pre-treatment sampling and nitrogen testing. Eversource is using a premier lab in MA to perform all tests. Initial water testing was done and GZA is treating the water based on the initial high PFOA results they received from Knights Brook. They are now only testing water after treatment. All test results will be shared with D.Messier prior to any discharge.

All in agreement to have Eversource draft a letter of agreement and forward to Atty A.McEachern to review prior to Commissioners meeting to sign. Eversource to cover legal fees for the agreement.

Motion by R. Stern to review a Memorandum of Agreement from Eversource and GZA to accept treated wastewater from the Seacoast Reliability Project pending review from Atty A.McEachern. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Discussion ensued on the Town Hall sending information directly to the Sewer Commissions attorney rather than contacting the Sewer Commission or WWTP directly, incurring legal fees to the Commission. Communication should be direct to the Sewer Commissioners.

Old Business: State has received wetlands permit application with payment, application has been accepted for review. After final approvals come in, Wright-Pierce will schedule geotechnical testing along the layout. Plan are currently at 30% completion, will be at 90% soon. Project should go out to bid in early spring. Work should commence last spring to early summer.

No further information on the driveway right of way.

Next meeting will be November 20, 2019 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser