

Newington Sewer Commission 11/18/2020 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, Utility Partners. C.James, S.Perkins, Casella Organics.

Minutes: Minutes from 10/21/2020 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: Enterprise Account balance for October was \$944,259.43. Operating Fund ending balance for October was \$1,422,045.26.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 11/18/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$70,719.64. 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.

The influent meter was replaced. It was 30 years old, began malfunctioning, and is a required piece of test equipment for the plant permit.

Gate to Wilcox Way installed. It's lighter than the front gate and remote controlled. Still working on adjusting the remote.

New Business: Clark James and Steve Perkins from Casella Organics attended to give an update on sludge disposal to the Commissioners. C.James provided an historical overview of the history of the contract with the Newington Sewer Commission and the changes that have occurred with sludge disposal. Since the 1998 contract, the market from sludge disposal has diminished. Many composting and landfill sites have closed due to odor complaints. Stricter EPA mandates have closed sludge incinerators. All of which is making it more difficult to dispose of sludge and is making it more costly.

Newington sludge is hauled to a composting facility. Comparing our costs with other municipalities the \$149/wet ton charge is comparable or less. Switching to the centrifuge in our plant has helped keep our costs down as high liquid content sludge costs more to dispose of. Both landfills and composting sites must add bulk to treat the liquids.

Casella Organics has received awards for their well-run facilities. The composting facility at Hawk Ridge has had updates in 2000 and an ammonia scrubber was added in 2010. They have an environmental management plan in place and the facility has been in continuous use since 1994, closing only 3 times for upgrades.

Discussion turned to PFOA's in sludge. The small amount of PFOA's in sludge tend to be stable and not leach out. PFOS tend to fractionate and can leach out of compost faster. The current annual testing for PFOA and PFOS at the Newington wastewater treatment plant will continue. Overall Casella is seeing a steady decrease in PFOA and PFOS numbers in their facility tests.

S.Perkins provided a sprayer for the plant to try out to minimize sludge odor.

Old Business: Forcemain construction has begun. The silt fence has been installed. Beginning next week, the laydown area on Shattuck Way near the Shafmaster driveway will be set up and possibly the company that will be doing the directional boring under Shattuck Way will be on site. Contractor will be working with Maritime Gas for a waiver to bore near the gas main since the project is beginning after November 1st. The resident engineer from Wright-Pierce will be overseeing.

Next meeting Wednesday December 16, 2020 at 9 am at the wastewater treatment plant.

Adjournment: 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser