

Newington Sewer Commission 12/15/2021 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, H2O Innovations.

Minutes: Minutes from 11/17/2021 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: Enterprise Account balance for November was \$1,346,466.60. Operating Fund ending balance for November was \$1,280,029.31. Discussion on status of incoming sewer payments.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 12/15/2021 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$59,205.50. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved & signed.

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

Notes from the NH DES wastewater pre-treatment inspection suggested updating the Sewer Usage ordinance. It has not been updated since 2011, Wright-Pierce will provide a quote.

New Business: Discussion on letter from the State of Maine for a potential surcharge to create a fund to pay for future PFOA testing of sludge. Currently sludge is tested twice a year as required by Casella Organics. This new fund will cover testing of land where sludge is being spread. R.Stern inquired if tests can be combined to avoid duplication and repetition, D.Messier advised the results from tests can be sent to all agencies requiring the results. He can adjust the timing of the tests to meet test date result requirements.

Repayment schedule for SRF Loan reviewed. Forcemain project came in under budget so a supplemental loan agreement will be needed adjust the amount. In addition, we will receive loan forgiveness for part of the total.

Motion by R.Stern to sign the supplemental loan agreement in the amount of \$910,372.44 with a principal loan forgiveness of \$136,381.27 to be paid back over 20 years. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor. Approved and signed.

Old Business: 2022 Budget reviewed. COLA was updated by the Town Hall. Budget adjustments discussed. Bond principal amounts updated; Line 997 Bond Principal payment was estimated at \$545,871 but will decrease to \$468,810. Can make adjustments to take \$218,00 from the bottom line and can hold the 2022 Sewer Rate steady.

Discussion on stipends and adjusting line 412 to include new sludge testing fees from the State of Maine. Lowered line items for EPA upgrade, and engineering. For the Forcemain SRF we are billed, we pay the bill, and then money comes back on the revenue side, and then the bond is paid. On paper it looks like we haven't been paying but that is not the case. Project came in under time and under budget and we got debt reduction over the life of the bond.

Bottom line on budget will decrease, even with adding testing fees for sludge. Focusing on keeping 2022 rates as level as possible. Budget will be adjusted for decrease in bond payments and increase in sludge testing fees. D.Messier will send out an updated budget when it is completed.

Discussion on obtaining pricing on catch basin mapping, possibly \$7,000-\$10,000. Town has begun cleaning out catch basins and they now have a hand drawn map. It's unknown if they have been cleaned out before. We will need to have increased maintenance and a plan in place for cleaning catch basins, and they will need to be digitally mapped.

Discussion on letter from attorney on videorecording meetings. Per A.McEachern if written minutes are taken and posted, there is no additional legal requirement to video tape meetings.

Motion by R.Stern that according to legal advice we are not required to video record the meetings of the Newington Sewer Commission, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Next meeting Wednesday January 19, 2021, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser