

Newington Sewer Commission 12/16/2020 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, Utility Partners. T.Vadney, Wright-Pierce.

Minutes: Minutes from 11/18/2020 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

Public Comment: Tim Vadney from Wright-Pierce present to discuss permit to comply with EPA recommendations. The recommendations have been updated to include that wastewater treatment plants do not actually have jurisdiction on non-plant discharges that feed into Great Bay. Pound limits have been assigned; Newington has been assigned 15 pounds per day which can be met. Non-compliance with the voluntary measures may mean reduced limits in the future. The flow assessments are seasonal averages, and we can comply with .6mg. However, the EPA wants all plants surrounding Great Bay to participate in “voluntary” river monitoring and nitrogen testing at our expense. The plant must submit a 5-year plan within 6 months for source reductions, tracking, and testing. The EPA has jurisdiction over plant outfall through the Clean Water Act but wants the wastewater treatment plants to act on reducing nitrogen from other sources. Because of how well the Newington plant is run we may get some leeway on the plan. Sampling will be done at the plant discharge not the final outfall as Portsmouth’s Pease plant shares our outfall pipe.

At some point the nitrogen limits will be lowered. Globally Great Bay cannot meet nitrogen reductions without addressing sources other than wastewater treatment plants. WWTP discharges are an extremely small percentage of nitrogen entering Great Bay. Storm water runoff is a large source of non-point nitrogen.

Several of the towns are looking to set up a group to coordinate the testing and to share costs. Discussion turned to how this was being funded, basing on size or flow rather than a flat rate to keep it fair. Communities with large discharge into Great Bay should bear more of the cost burden for testing. Testing will be weekly. By April 1, 2021 we must indicate our intent to submit coverage for this initial permit and then have 6 months to submit our testing plan. The plan needs to include a description on how to track nitrogen over the life of the 5-year permit. We can receive credits for addressing non-point sources. We can already take credits since the plant is currently discharging below 12 pounds. Discussion ensued on filters, timing the discharge with the tides, and the change in our discharge levels between the seasons – higher in winter, lower in summer, to further reduce nitrogen. The EPA wants wastewater treatment plans to test Great Bay and take care of groundwater. We have flexibility because of how well our plant is run.

Treasurer’s report: Enterprise Account balance for November was \$944,452.93. Operating Fund ending balance for November was \$1,478,663.57. Budget reviewed.

Discussion on the balance of the Enterprise Fund and transferring additional funds into it. Motion transfer \$400,000 from the Operating Fund to the Enterprise fund made by R.Stern. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all approved.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 12/16/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$70,946.20. 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.

New total nitrogen permit arrived, takes effect 2/1/2021.

Second 2020 sludge sample completed for EPA permit. Equipment has been readied for winter and snow. Waiting on the power plant to complete their section of the fence on Wilcox Way so that the new road can be used.

New Business: Utility Partners has rebranded and is now H2O innovations.

Old Business: Construction on the forcemain has started. The section of pipe between Woodbury Ave and Shattuck Way was installed last week. Directional boring under Shattuck way was completed yesterday, a new manhole will be installed. Plastic pipe has been welded together and ready to install. Getting pipe ready to install from Shattuck way to end point by the pump station. Next week will set up bypass piping at pump station. Then will pull the sleeve through that pipe. As part of contract they will camera the pipe. Have not had to treat any groundwater yet.

Review of unpaid sewer accounts.

Next meeting Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 9 am at the wastewater treatment plant.

Adjournment: 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser