

## **Newington Sewer Commission 2/15/2023      APPROVED MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

**Present:** R.Stern, T.Hazelton, J.O'Reilly, Commissioners. A.Wright, J.Toleman, B. Gilpatric, H2O Innovations. J.Chagnon, Ambit Engineering. B.Schumrick, Unitil.

**Minutes:** Motion by J.O'Reilly to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

**Public Comment:** J.Chagon, Ambit Engineering and B.Schumrick, Unitil presented plans for updates to merge two gas facilities into one and construct a new gas facility near the Spaulding Turnpike Southbound. Plan will cross the sewer easement. Map of the plan reviewed along with the 1981 Sewer Easement Deed. New driveway would be on top of the easement. Unitil has agreed to put in writing that if the Sewer line needs to be replaced in the future, they will be responsible for replacing the driveway. The deed does not specify who replaces land when the pipe is dug up. Discussion moved to the type of pipe currently in place, believed to be clay. It will need to be replaced, slip lined, or other means as the weight of the driveway and vehicles could be damaging to the sewer pipe. Until would like to begin construction in the Spring. R.Stern advised will need to check with legal to see if a paved driveway can be put on top of the easement. A camera line inspection will need to be done to help determine if the pipe can be slip lined. J.O'Reilly request to table to the next meeting unless legal advised earlier action, in order to confirm the type of pipe, can it be slip lined, and who is paying for the camera inspection.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to have Commission contract a company to camera inspect the Sewer line and the costs will be billed to Unitil. Second by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Discussion on changing name on the TD Bank account from D.Messier to Newington Sewer Commission. Enterprise Account balance for January was \$1,358,502.11. Operating Fund ending balance for January was \$1,139,540.63.

**Manifest Approval:** Discussion on generator repair and major maintenance line. Motion made to approve the 2/15/2023 manifest by J.O'Reilly in the amount of \$72,020.18. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved & signed.

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

- Equalization pump had seal issues, will continue to work on. Need spring to come so the tank can be drained to fully repair. 1 pump is down right now, using a back-up pump.
- Sodium hydroxide pump had to be started – low pH in influent began coming in over the weekend. Tank began foaming. Starting sodium hydroxide pump to get pH balanced, this will increase chemical costs.
- J.Scotton come in train J.Brackett how to treat foaming in the sludge tank.
- Paul Brook Pump Station had high amps alarm.

Casella rate increase letter reviewed.

Discussion on the chemical room. The chemical room was not included in the plant upgrade. Age of the chemical tanks is undetermined, typically have a shelf life of 10-15 years. The ventilation system is not working correctly. No leaks in the piping have been detected, but they are older and may need to be replaced. Currently working on a plan and obtaining quotes. Currently the staff are wearing respirators with chemical cartridges to enter the room.

**New Business:** pH/ORP and DO meters from Hach will need to be replaced. They are 7 years old and have a normal shelf life of 5 years. There are 2 meters per tank, 4 meters total. Discussion on meter costs and necessary supplies for them. Looking at the trends on the computer and cannot confirm that meters are reading correctly at this time.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to approve \$7,312.83 to purchase , not to exceed \$8,500, to replace meters and needed supplies. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor. Approved.

New ladders to be installed on wet sides of pump stations. Hardware has rotted off the wall. Quote from J.Scotton – \$6,480 for parts and labor.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to replace ladders and hardware, not to exceed \$7,000. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor. Approved.

**Old Business:** Discussion on the Capital Reserve Fund and what is an authorized use. Review of history of account and votes taken. Unable to locate 2016 Town Warrant on website. Wording on Capital Reserve is emergency repairs, cannot be used to offset Sewer Rates. Unable to confirm if this was voted on. RSA on Sewer Funds reviewed.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday March 15, 2023, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Adjournment:** 10:45

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser