

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: R.Stern, T.Hazelton, J.O'Reilly, Commissioners. A.Wright, B. Gilpatric, H2O Innovations. D.Messier.

Minutes: Motion by J.O'Reilly to approve the March 15, 2023 minutes as amended, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's report: Enterprise Account balance for March was \$1,363,835.24. Operating Fund ending balance for March was \$1,016,216.22. Discussion on State Aid Grant.

Manifest Approval: Discussion on Unitol reimbursal for cost to video line in sewer easement; rekeying of plant also discussed. Motion made to approve the 4/18/2023 manifest by J.O'Reilly in the amount of \$78,716.81. 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 by J.Scotton.

- Weekly pump station maintenance.
- Assisted with polymer drum switch over and fixed suction issue.
- Cleaned out polymer unit from polymer build-up.
- Assisted with plant water filter basket issues, red worms and maggots.

Flows were up from rapid snow melt and rain, almost exceeded max flow for the day. Discussion on private lines and what feeds them.

A plant maintenance employee was terminated, keys not initially returned. WWTP was rekeyed and gate combination changed. A.Wright in negotiations with a potential candidate who is a Grade 1 operator.

New Business: A State Aid Grant of \$281,413 for Paul Brook Pump Station Force Main Upgrade project was approved. The first payment of \$16,708 has already been received and has been deposited into the Sewer operating account.

Old Business: Discussion on purpose and use of the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. Can be used for Major Maintenance, but not for offsetting the sewer rate.

J.Scotton has made an offer of \$200 each for the surplus lathe, pipe threader, and welder. These were originally purchased before the plant was in operation. Motion by J.O'Reilly to accept the offer from J.Scotton to purchase the surplus lathe, pipe threader, and welder. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

Chemical room update - waiting in quote for stairs. Wooden stairs are beginning to degrade. Looking at a composite or fiberglass material.

Deduct water meter policy application reviewed. Irrigation Policy covers secondary water meter installation for the purpose of irrigation and other outdoor water use that will not enter the wastewater system. The irrigation policy will require applicants to complete a Town of Newington Plumbing Permit application for the installation

and inspection of a water submeter by a licensed NH Plumber and meeting all State of NH requirements. Irrigation sub-meters will require bi-annual inspections by Newington wastewater treatment staff at the start and end of the irrigation season to take meter readings. Deduct credits for irrigation water will then be applied to the next year's sewer assessment. No retroactive credits will be applied for usage prior to the adoption of this policy.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to accept the corrected application for deduct water meters pending legal review, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

2023 Sewer Rate was discussed next. D.Messier presented data on usage and overall budget. Operating budget is 1.3 million. 36,111 cf were used in 2022. With no reductions or offsets, the sewer rate could be \$36.16 per unit. After review of the Sewer Capital Reserve Account, it was determined that this account cannot be used to offset the sewer rate. Commissioners discussed revenues (septage and IPP charges) and State Aid Grants that the plant is now receiving to offset the sewer rate. Applying revenues and the State Aid Grants will set the rate at \$29.74 per unit.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to set 2023 Sewer Rate at \$29.74 per unit, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Motion by R.Stern to use 2023 Revenues to offset Sewer Rate to keep rate at \$29.74, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Additional discussion continued on the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund and the Major Maintenance budget line item.

Motion by R.Stern to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) at 10:13 am. Roll call vote taken; R.Stern – yes, T. Hazelton – yes, J.O'Reilly – yes.

Roll call vote taken at 10:37 am to exit non-public session. R.Stern – yes, T. Hazelton – yes, J.O'Reilly – yes. Motion by J.O'Reilly to seal non-public minutes for 10 years, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor approved.

R.Stern inquired if B.Douglas or J.Tolman would be at May meeting to discuss the contract CPI adjustment.

R.Stern requested A.Wright create a list of all the charges for J.Scotton that have been billed to the Sewer Commission. J.Scotton is performing jobs and tasks that were previously completed by an H2O Innovations employee.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday May 17, 2023, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser