

**Newington Sewer Commission 6/17/2020      APPROVED MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

**Present:** T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, Utility Partners.

**Minutes:** Minutes from 5/20/2020 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Treasurer's report:** May Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance for May was \$943,273.22. Operating Fund ending balance for May was \$892,069.42.

**Manifest Approval:** Motion made to approve the 6/17/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$54,678.16. 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.

Sewer bills have been mailed; payments have been coming in. Approximately \$600,000 so far, which is about half the budget to be raised for the year. Several users have set up monthly payment plans.

Commissioners read and discussed letters from John P. Emery and Jennifer Sabine about sewer rates. There are currently 82 sewer users on the wastewater system, 6 of those are residential properties. All residential users average about the same usage. Bills are calculated based on water usage from the previous year, and all users are billed equally based upon usage. The larger and more difficult discussion will begin for next year. Commercial properties that were closed due to COVID-19 will have a lower water usage for 2020, which will adjust their 2021 sewer rate. D.Messier advised he has some ideas on how to minimize plant expenses, but operating costs really do not decrease. The plant still uses electricity and chemicals to process wastewater. Engineering costs may decrease for next year and it is possible the Commission will receive some monies back from the State of NH. COVID-19 will create an impact for 2021 sewer rates.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** Discussion on special meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Copy of contract amendment #2 proposal discussed. Meeting time to be reposted for 8 am.

The Newington Sewer Commissioners entered a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II at 9:34 am to discuss contract negotiations. Public meeting resumed at 10:16 am.

Updated schedule from Wright-Pierce for the forcemain project discussed. A new issue has surfaced, a portion of the forcemain is an easement within Tycom's property. This area has a lot of traffic, heavy vehicles, and is adjacent to land where VOA's have been disposed of. Disturbing the land could require mitigation of the soil at an increased cost to the project. Wright-Pierce engineers are proposing to slip line and 8" PVC pipe into the existing 10" concrete pipe to eliminate excavating. This would be done with video inspection of the line. This would be for approximately 200' of the forcemain. Discussion

ensued the friction loss for an 8" line tying into a 10" line and if an additional section could also benefit from slip lining an 8" pipe into the existing line. This would save costs on excavation and soil mitigation. D.Messier to check with Wright-Pierce Engineers to see if this would be feasible so the project can stay on track to go out to bid in the fall.

Special non-public meeting per RSI 91-A:3 II to discuss contract negotiations will be held June 24, 2020 at 8 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Next regular meeting will be July 15, 2020 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Adjournment: 10:23 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser