

Newington Sewer Commission 9/15/2021 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am.

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

Minutes: Minutes from 8/18/2021 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's report: Enterprise Account balance for August was \$1,346,130.96. Operating Fund ending balance for August was \$1,053,155.13.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 9/15/2021 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$51,456.96. 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. Plant is now back to normal staffing. Plant is running efficiently, and Nitrogen levels are still below 2 lbs. Supply chain issues are impacting ordering and timely delivery of chemicals to the plant. D.Messier in contact with Wright Pierce in regard to potential Capital Improvement Plan projects.

Letter from Town Auditors reviewed on documenting the offset to the Sewer Rates.

New Business: Draft 2022 budget reviewed. Operations contract has a 4.3% increase which will be negotiated in the Spring before signing the H2O Innovations contract. Discussion on CPI and impacts to the budget. D.Messier to contact the State to find out the bond payment for Forcemain project. There was a \$90,000 savings on Phase II of the Forcemain project. We do still have a retainage payment due to the contractor.

Discussion on major maintenance, maintaining the line at \$80,000 or lowering it to \$60,000. Motion by R.Stern to lower the Major Maintenance line in the proposed 2022 budget from \$80,000 to \$60,000. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Discussion on EPA Upgrade line of \$100,000 and lowering it by \$30,000. Motion by R.Stern to lower the EPA Upgrade line in the proposed 2022 budget from \$100,000 to \$70,000. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Discussion of the Sewer Abatement line. Motion by R.Stern to lower the Sewer Abatement line in the proposed 2022 budget from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

New bottom line of the proposed 2022 Newington Sewer Budget will be \$1,582,574, a .16% increase.

Budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen is Monday Oct 4, 2021 at 5:20 pm.

Discussion ensued on sewer rate history, economic development, taxes, and the environmental impacts the wastewater treatment plant is addressing. Our wastewater treatment plan is one of the cleanest in the area. We are doing our part to protect the environment and that should be a selling point to bringing in good

businesses. The plant upgrade was not just to meet EPA requirements, it was to exceed them. Which is what the plant is currently doing.

Old Business: General draft permit comments sent to EPA, waiting for final permit. This covers PFOA's influent and effluent, but no still no approved test for it. Joint Adaptive Management Plan for Great Bay from the Municipal Alliance has been submitted to the EPA, waiting for a response.

Next meeting Wednesday October 20, 2021, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser