

Newington Sewer Commission 2/21/2024 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

Present: R.Stern, T.Hazelton, J.O'Reilly, Commissioners. L.Coleman, Sewer Clerk. A.Wright, R.Lauricella, H2O Innovations. J.Mercer, Wright-Pierce.

Minutes: Motion by T.Hazelton to approve the minutes of January 17, 2024 as amended, seconded by J.O'Reilly. All in favor, approved. Motion by T.Hazelton to approve the non-public minutes as amended for January 17, 2024 and to seal for 5 years, seconded by J.O'Reilly. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: J.Mercer Wright-Pierce present to discuss the chemical room. Both the sodium hydrochloride and bisulfite tanks are stored in the far corner of the room. They are original to 2012, over 20 years old. Traditionally these tanks have a 20-year life, although the bisulfite tank appears older than that. The current code requires these tanks be in separate rooms. Discussion on why this room was not updated during the upgrade. Determined it was in the conceptual plan of the upgrade, but any changes to the room would require it to be brought up to current code and it may have been removed to keep costs down. Currently the room is heated through a hole in the wall and venting is done through a fan mounted into another wall opening to create positive pressure to combat off-gassing. Electric heaters discussed - would need to be explosion proof. Concerning right now is the age of the tanks and piping. A.Wright proposed an outdoor double walled tank in a berm for the sodium hydrochloride as it has a freezing temp below zero. This would separate it from the bisulfite to meet code and would be a more cost-effective option, tank can be insulated and the chemical room divided into 2 rooms for piping. J.Mercer proposed preparing an alternatives analysis and to bring in an architect, it would take about a month.

Motion by J.O'Reilly to authorize study of chemical room funded by the Capital Reserve Account not to exceed \$6,000. Second by T.Hazelton. All in favor approved.

Treasurer's report: Discussion on State of NH Grant Payment, it was applied to the wrong account by the Town Hall. Discussion on unpaid bills and lien paperwork. Sewer Capital Reserve Account ending balance for December was \$1,393,608.86. Operating Fund ending balance for December was \$1,127,022.14. Sewer Capital Reserve Account ending balance for January was \$1,397,150.00. Operating Fund ending balance for January was \$1,149,907.35.

Manifest Approval: Discussion on electrical work and generator repair. Newington's contribution to MAAM has decreased as more communities have joined the municipal alliance. Motion made to approve the 2/21/2024 manifest by J.O'Reilly in the amount of \$69,927.30. 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 by plant staff. Large increase in Septage in January, 61 gallons.

Maintenance Activities:

- Weekly pump station checks.
- Ran Grit Screw weekly
- Cleaned sludge can bay

- Cleaned oil in blowers and inspected belts. Switching to Delta Oil moving forward to increase longevity of blowers and it is more cost effective.
- Snow removal as needed
- Took motor desk off Kubota. Cleaned, greased, and inspected blades
- Cleaned centrifuge floor
- Cleaned solenoids on rag screener and rebuilt/repared one. Whomever worked on them last took out the plungers that keeps it from closing fully. Not sure why they were removed or by whom. Plant staff will be slowly rebuilding them as they can. Will need to buy more in the future, they are approximately \$200-\$300 each.

Received water usage numbers from Portsmouth and working on the usage calculations. Discussion ensued on agreements with some facilities on water usage data that had previously been made by D.Messier. All agreed that former agreements should no longer be in place and that Sewer Users need to complete a Water Deduct Permit and have a separate water meter to ensure fairness and accurate water usage data.

NHDES Annual Audit is 2/22/24.

A.Wright is looking into updating the SCADA to be more user friendly and add some features that were left out with the last upgrade.

- Chemical controls are not user friendly, and they are not able to control usage of chemicals so they are wasting chemical at times.
- Essential equipment has no read-outs as designed.

To bring everything up to speed. The centrifuge has no readouts on polymer usage and they should be able to click on it to see the rate sludge pumps working on. They have started a list of what will need to be updated and are getting a new quote from A&D for this. Also reaching out to 2 other companies for estimates that were highly recommended, Electrical Installations and Wilson Controls.

New Business: Letter from Casella on CPI rate adjustment reviewed. CPI rate increase is 2.82%

Letter from EPA Region 1 received on 2/15/24 reviewed. The PFAS Method #1633 will be going into effect in August. A.Wright will be working with T.Walker on additional testing to meet permit requirements. There will be an impact to the cost of lab testing fees, but not sure on how much. Discussion on what is the threshold or impact if we test positive – no levels or thresholds for now. This is data collecting.

Discussion on state compliance for certified operators and back up operators. A.Wright is on the certification committee for the State of NH. All plants are required to certify that the operator in charge of the plant is certified to do so, and that there is a backup operator who is also certified, and that the owners of the plant are knowledgeable of the certifications. Newington is a Grade 3 plant. A.Wright is a Grade 4 Operator, a higher level; and S.Knight is the back up as a Grade 3 Operator. S.Corriveau is currently a Grade 1 Operator and testing soon for Grade 2. R.Stern signed as the owner of the plant. Discussion continued as to who is the legal owner of the plant, as sewer is a separate self-funded entity. Will check with legal.

Old Business: Reviewed quote from Trane and list of repairs and their costs over the previous 3 years. The agreement cost was higher than what was discussed at the last meeting. R.Stern requested the Trane representative to come to the next meeting. Would like to know how much was previously

expended on service calls would have been reduced if a service contract was in place. J.Mercer also recommended another company A.Wright could get a quote from for similar services. Also discussed if the emergency calls would be reduced if regular maintenance was in place. A.Wright has been waiting for a part from Trane for almost a month.

R.Stern now has a debit card to pay for QuickBooks Online through the Operating account. L.Coleman will need a laptop to use to use QuickBooks, track expenditures, and track the budget. Discussion on operating systems, compatibility, and network security. Motion by J.O'Reilly to authorize purchasing a laptop for the Sewer Clerk not to exceed \$2500, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Reviewing notes from several months ago, R.Stern asked about the status of several repairs. A.Wright advised the chemical pump was repaired, it was an electrical issue with how it was hooked up. The other issue, the centrifuge VFD, has not been repaired. A.Wright will follow up.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:14

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser