

Newington Sewer Commission 12/18/2019 DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, J.Tolman, Utility Partners. M.Cardin, SRP Eversource. D.Zarta-Gier, GZA Consultants.

Minutes: Minutes from 11/20/19 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved. Minutes from 12/9/19 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: November Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance was \$996,298.73. Operating Fund ending balance in November was \$1,145,710.19. Review of 2019 and 2020 Budgets

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 12/18/19 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$103,543.38. 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.

With the heavy rains the past weekend the plant processed over 3 times the normal amount of flow.

Novel Iron works has completed the monorail

Budget committee meeting tonight.

Fire Alarm system & extinguishers inspected. D.Messier switched to a different Fire Alarm company, Mammoth Fire Alarm, for inspections saving over half the cost of the previous company.

New Business: Discussion on billing, R.Stern inquired if it would be possible to bill quarterly rather than annually or biannually. This would allow business to have more cash flow with payment spread out. It would also give relief to some users to spread out their payments. D.Messier advised this was discussed with a previous Sewer Commission. He could take the bill, spread it out into 4 payments and send out quarterly. He did advise that 60% of users pay their bill in full. Some users contact him and he sets up payment plans for them. T.Cole advised that some don't have the money up front and they borrow to pay it. R.Stern noted that we don't charge interest, so there is no incentive for anyone to pay in a timely manner. D.Messier advised quarterly billing would double fees for the accountant to send out 4 bills rather than 2, but the bill can indicate that the user can pay in full or pay quarterly and interest could be charged if not paid within 30 days. This could be set up in time for the first bills that go out in February.

Motion by R.Stern to switch to quarterly billing beginning with 2020 bills, with the option to pay in full, and with interest charged if not paid within 30 days. Seconded by T. Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Commissioners reviewed a checklist from the Town Hall for the upcoming budget committee meeting. Discussion on the Asset Management Plan (AMP) and how it is helping to keep the budget in check, the pro-preventative maintenance program, and how this is a clean plant.

Old Business: Discussion with Eversource regarding their request to continue discharging into the wastewater system through February 29, 2020. As of date they have not discharged the full amount in the current contract. The additional discharge into the system has had no effect on plant operations or efficiency. Eversource has paid the attorney bill for the contract. Motion by R.Stern to extend the discharge to February 29, 2020 for a total of \$350,000 gallons, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved. D.Messier has a binder of pictures and reports on the Eversource discharge for review.

Discussion turned to PFOA's. Septic tanks are dumped at the plant, it is something we may need to be testing for in the future.

Wright-Pierce continuing to work on the Forcemain project. During an environmental review NHDES has advised that we need to look at PFOA's in Paul Brook and may have to treat like Eversource has done at Knights Brook. Plans for sampling and contingency plans are in the works. Samples will be compared to sampling completed by the Air Force 15 years ago, however the letter from NHDES does not specify where the Air Force did their sample.

Discussion turned to the new hotel project and its proximity to the new forcemain and if that project will need to do PFOA sampling as well. The WWTP requirement stems from the forcemain environmental review, not from the wetlands review. If there are high PFOA's we will be required to treat it. PFOA treatment is not in the budget, but if needed we can apply for assistance in funding. R.Stern inquired on where the previous forcemain breaks occurred, D.Messier advised across from the pump station. The environmental review of the forcemain project will be posted and testing will have begun before the public notice. Wright-Pierce will be getting samples before everything freezes. D.Messier did share that because of possible PFOA contaminants the Town of Durham is now paying to truck sludge to Canada. Our PFOA test results for sludge were minimal to no traceable amounts. Wright-Pierce will be posting a Public Notice for Environmental Review for the Forcemain Project to initiate the 30-day public comment period.

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

Adjournment: 9:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser