

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

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

**Minutes:** Minutes from 3/17/2021 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer's report:** Enterprise Account balance for March was \$1,345,0284.87. Operating Fund ending balance for March was \$996,141,34.

**Manifest Approval:** Discussion on maintenance and inspection of the centrifuge. Motion made to approve the 4/21/2021 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$55,453.42. 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.

Letter from J.Tolman H2O Innovations re: requesting contract adjustment for a 1.2% CPI adjustment. Discussion on letter. Motion by R.Stern pay the 1.2% increase beginning May 1, 2021 to authorize Chairman T.Cole to sign the contract adjustment per the contract, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved. Signed by Chairman T.Cole.

2020 sewer commission financial information has been sent to the auditors. Once the ground warms up the final hydroseeding will be completed in the areas disturbed by the forcemain project. The funding for the State Aid Grant we received has been cut from the State Budget.

**New Business:** Discussion on an unruly male subject with a camper who has come to plant several times to discharge into the plant. Subject has left hoses unhooked and threatened the plant staff when approached. Subject has not paid to discharge and police were notified. Commissioners directed WWTP staff to contact the police immediately if subject returns as he is no longer allowed to discharge his camper into the plant.

Discussion on security cameras, posting for no unauthorized dumping, and keeping gate locked when plant is open.

2021 sewer rate charges were discussed, with the lower flows of 2020 the rate per user will increase. 2021 rates are based on the lower flows that occurred when businesses and restaurants were closed, lower flows equate to a higher rate per cubic foot. Water usage in 2021 has increased as businesses reopened. Discussion on adjustments to lower the rates and the impacts of the increase in the H2O Innovations contract. Using reserve account funds will lower projected 2021 rate to closer to the 2020 sewer rate. A letter will be sent out with the next bill to explain charges.

Motion by R.Stern to transfer \$200,000 from the Enterprise Account to Operating Expenses to offset the 2021 sewer rate, seconded by T.Hazelton. Further discussion ensued on various options to offset the sewer rate.

Motion amended by R.Stern to transfer \$250,000 from the Enterprise Account to the Operating account, to reduce the sewer surcharge from 1% (2020 rate) to 0% for 2021 only , and further to authorize Chairman T.Cole to sign paperwork for the Trustees of the Trust Fund to transfer said funds, to offset the 2021 Sewer Rate for Ratepayers. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

The Enterprise Account has almost a million dollars for our reserve. Per vote, transfer when the Operating Budget gets low. D.Messer can set rates to send bills in mid-May and will check with auditors to determine when to do the transfer.

**Old Business:** New Federal General Draft Permit has arrived, D.Messier meeting with Wright-Pierce to review on April 20<sup>th</sup> and will have comments at the next Commissioners meeting. This is different than the nitrogen permit, this is for general plant operation. Wright-Pierce has requested a 60-day extension and we have until May 10<sup>th</sup> to respond. New draft permit will require quarterly PFOA testing and sampling on sludge, influent, and effluent. This additional testing may have to be contracted out as the sampling person must be clean and plastics cannot be used. Future permits will increase costs and testing requirements are changing, fecal coliform testing is going a 5-tube old style test. The plant will have to develop sampling plans and videotaping. There is a basic outline for this, and it will be discussed at more in depth in May. Most plants are requesting a 60-day extension for this and the plant has been operating on a default permit for 12 years waiting for this new one.

The Sewer Commission entered a private session at 10:02 am. Returned to public session at 10:06 am. Motion by R.Stern to seal private session minutes indefinitely, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Next meeting Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 9 am at the wastewater treatment plant.

**Adjournment:** 10:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser