

Newington Sewer Commission 1/12/2022 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, H2O Innovations.

Minutes: Minutes from 12/15/2021 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: Enterprise Account balance for December was \$1,346,580.96. Operating Fund ending balance for December was \$1,271,759.16.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 1/12/2022 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$46,259.97. 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 report due to Town Hall by Tuesday February 1, 2022.

New Business: Discussed letter from Casella Organics. Per Main Public Law 2021 Chapter 478 An Act to Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater there will be a \$10/ton surcharge for sludge hauled and spread in Maine.

Old Business: Discussion on packet that was presented to the Budget Committee. The 2022 Sewer Commission budget was not approved. It appears that the data and reference materials provided to the Town Hall and Budget Committee were not reviewed prior to the committee meeting. Sewer rates are assessed on a water in/water out basis, there are no other calculations. Discounts to any users means a higher rate to another user so the rate is the same for all users based on their water usage. This has been the most fair and equitable manner to assess bills. Historical and previous billing practices were discussed, which included methods that were not determined to be fair.

It was suggested by the Budget Committee that Engineering funds not expended be encumbered to the following year. List of Budget Committee member questions was reviewed. Several items on the list were duplicated and the list of 10 questions was narrowed down to 8. Further discussion on each item lead to realization that several were answered in the packet provided in advance and by D.Messier at the meeting but were perhaps not reviewed by the Budget Committee. Detailed list of items to discuss at the next Budget Committee meeting was created along with the discussion to create a PowerPoint presentation to summarize the information.

A work session will be held on Wednesday January 19 2022 at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Next meeting Wednesday February 16, 2022, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser