

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am.

Present: T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Hazelton, Commissioners. D.Messier, Utility Partners. L.Shields, Wright-Pierce Engineering.

Minutes: Minutes from 12/18/19 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve as corrected, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: December Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance for November was \$1,192,748.86. Operating Fund ending balance in November was \$1,145,710.19 and December was \$1,078,460.77.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 1/15/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$57,838.51. 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.

New Business: The draft nitrogen permit has arrived, reviewing for comments. There will be a public hearing on the Draft NPDES Great Bay Nitrogen General Permit on February 19, 2020 at 6pm. There will be a 60-day public period for comments. D.Messier contact L.Shields at Wright-Pierce to review, he will be attending the public hearing. R.Stern advised he will be attending as well. NHDES has moved to a nitrogen pound limit and they have a nitrogen optimization plan (NOP). Each of the 13 WWTP's in 12 communities will have to create a plan and fund the testing of Great Bay. Questions and discussion ensued on who is deciding the costs for the testing and who is completing it. Maps of Great Bay with testing points were reviewed. D.Messier has spoken with other plant operators; they are questioning the testing dates and the findings. Wright-Pierce will be assisting several communities to draft questions and comments for the public hearing. All agreed that no one wants to see increased nitrogen levels in Great Bay but testing and costs need to be fair. Some of these tests will be over an extended period time, possibly decades.

L.Shields advised that this permit is for our discharge into Great Bay, it does not include or cover our permit request for the forcemain project. This is the general permit for the plant to operate. This permit package is asking wastewater plants to go above and beyond what we have done in the upgrade project. It is based on aerial loading of nitrogen that is discharging into Great Bay, backed into effluent limits we have, and is an annual loading based on current flows with a 8mg nitrogen level. Basically, a hold the load effluent limit. A facility reaching their design flow makes out better. The NOP polls together looking at non-point sources in the community. How to reduce nitrogen from their sources and ambient water quality for all 12 communities. However, it is not clear in the document how this is funded. There are a lot of unknowns. Wright-Pierce will be working with other communities to work on this. This has been ongoing for 10-15 years and has gaps and misinformation in it. This permit is beyond wastewater.

D.Messier advised that one component in the NOP is septic systems. This will impact the Planning Board and future developments to have a plan. At some point there needs to be a meeting of all the boards in the communities. Testing will not be at treatment plants, there will be multiple testing points in Great Bay, so nitrogen can be coming into the bay from other sources. This permit would put responsibility on the WWTP to regulate non-point discharges. We have upgraded and done what we needed to do, how is the WWTP going to regulate septic systems? Why should rate payers pay for discharge not going through the WWTP? Who is overseeing this? T.Hazelton inquired if the State of Maine doing this as well? Maine WWTP's discharge into Great Bay as well. There may also be private industries discharging. It was agreed that none of us want to pollute the bay, but we have a duty to protect the rate payers. This permit puts it all on the WWTP to report. Discussion turned to the proposal from Wright-Pierce to draft comments for the public hearing and they will be present to assist during the hearing. The quote is an allowance figure that will not be exceeded, the proposal is providing support for the upcoming public hearing. This is an unexpected expense and Commissioners discussed how to fund the proposal.

Discussion turned to notifications after the public hearing. The nitrogen limits are based on our current annual average flow. Increased use of the plant from new construction or housing in the Sewer District will not increase our nitrogen number – it is based on current flow, not anticipated future growth. Increased use of the WWTP may necessitate future upgrades. R.Stern asked if other boards in town know about this public hearing. T.Cole advised information should be forwarded, bottom line this expense will be coming. D.Messier advised copies will be sent to the Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board.

Motion by R.Stern to approve the Proposal from Wright-Pierce for a budget allowance not to exceed \$7,500 to review the permit, develop comments, meet with staff and the Commissioners, attend the public hearing with the EPA, and assist with the submission of comments to the EPA. Proposal to be funded from the Enterprise Fund and further to authorize Chairman T.Cole to sign for the Sewer Commission. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

G.Klanchesser to draft a letter for the Town Report for the Commissioners to review.

Old Business: Centrysis quote for a new centrifuge reviewed. Price went up slightly due to a few extra parts we'll need. Whether to replace the existing centrifuge with the new one and have the old one repaired or store the new centrifuge on site and replace when the current one fails was debated. The original plan was to have a spare centrifuge on hand to have a back-up system in place. The current centrifuge has been in place for 13-14 years, although the bearings were replaced about 5 years ago. When the centrifuge was last removed a rigging crew was hired to help remove it, the installation of the new monorail will allow replacement to be handled quickly in-house.

Motion by R.Stern to purchase a spare rotating assembly from Centrisys with additional spare parts to have in stock for a total of \$187,309.07, to be funded through the Enterprise Fund. Further to authorize Chairman T.Cole to sign on behalf of the Sewer Commission. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

The forcemain project is out for public comment. There is correspondence from NHDES to be addressed during construction. D.Messier had 3 tests taken along the alignment on the surface and extremely elevated levels of PFOA's were detected. This is the surface areas along Paul Brook. Surface water samples were sent to a lab that specializes in PFOA testing. R.Stern inquired if we will need to mitigate the same as Eversource is currently doing. D.Messier advised they will do more samples and include

underground water. Surface water running on 12/20 when the samples were taken was elevated, but this is another cost we may need to expect. Unsure where the PFOA's are coming from; could be a parking lot, Pease, Woodbury Ave. NHDES will most likely expect a mitigation plan. More testing will be done.

Forecemain schedule

Wetlands permit response review 20-day comment period	1/28-2020-2/17/2020
Geotechnical borings	3/2/2020
50% internal QA/QC	3/23/2020
90% submittal due	4/10/2020
Client/DES Comments Due	4/20/2020
100% Bidding Documents Due	4/30/2020

Next meeting will be February 19, 2020 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser