

Newington Sewer Commission 12/28/2022 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Present: R.Stern, T.Hazelton, J.O'Reilly, Commissioners. D.Messier, H2O Innovations.

Minutes: Motion by J.O'Reilly to approve the December 21, 2022 minutes, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at last meeting.

Manifest Approval: No new manifest.

Plant operators report: Update on Sewer billing and outstanding accounts. Presented preliminary draft copy of irrigation policy for Commissioners to review for the January meeting.

New Business: None.

Old Business: Reviewed documentation to present to the budget committee. Packet includes budget, line-item explanations, line-item overages, history of sewer rates, and a copy of the annual State Aid Grant payment.

Discussion on expenditures for 2022 and the State Aid Grant payment. Annual SAG payment for the Plant Upgrade is \$149,177 which will be received annually for the next 16 years. Possible SAG for the Forcemain project could be around \$30,000 annually.

Line 700 – Major maintenance was overexpended. List of expenditures reviewed. Monies to be transferred from lines 310 Outside Services, 320 Legal, 325 Engineering, and 690 Contingency, to cover the expenses. Major maintenance is any repair or equipment over \$1,000. All equipment at the WWTP must be always operational for the plant to function, things cannot be repaired or replaced later. This line was lowered for the 2022 budget, will look to increase this back to previous level for 2023.

Discussion ensued on line 441 Town Services. The town sends a bill to the Sewer Commission every December to cover stipends, Sewer Treasurer, A/P services, Fica, vehicle insurance, and the Audit. As of 12/28/22 the bill for these services has not been received.

Budget reviewed line by line. Line 100 for Commissioner's stipends increased by 3.51% per the town. Line 495 is zeroed out – all testing charges and fees are now under line 490 – Testing Fees. Brief side discussion on what we are doing to reduce our nitrogen output and the plant numbers. D.Messier advised that the fees we pay to MAAM for joint testing is well worth it vs having to pay for our own testing to meet the EPA permit requirement.

Line 800 EPA Upgrade zeroed out. This was the line for projects, the upgrade costs are all covered under the bond payment. The Upgrade bond has 16 years remaining on the payment schedule, the Forcemain project has 18 years remaining on its payment schedule. Important to note that the Sewer Commission

received 1 million in debt forgiveness on the Upgrade project which is spread out over the bond repayment schedule and the Commission also is receiving the annual SAG payment.

Line 997 Bond Principal Payment is overexpended. D.Messier referred to the Overages lists. Two payments were made for the Forcemain project bond in 2022, one of those was the 2021 payment. This was due to the bill being sent to the Town instead of the WWTP and the Town did not forward it to the Sewer Commission for timely payment. D.Messier personally delivered the payment once the payment check was received from the Town. Both bond bills for 2022 (Upgrade and Forcemain) have been received and paid. The Upgrade payment was made in May. The Forcemain bond payments were made in March and December, annually it will be due in December.

Upcoming expenses are the bill for Town Services and contract negotiations with H2O Innovations.

Sewer rate for 2023 will be set once the water usage data is received from Portsmouth Water.

Discussion ensued on the Enterprise fund and Capital Reserve Funds.

Budget committee meeting on 1/4/23 at 6:35 pm to review the Sewer budget.

Next regular meeting will be Wednesday January 18, 2022, at 9 am at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:05

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser