

**Newington Sewer Commission 2/17/2021      APPROVED MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

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

**Minutes:** Minutes from 1/20/2021 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton.

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer's report:** Enterprise Account balance for January was \$1,344,850.06. Operating Fund ending balance for January was \$1,075,649.02. Budget reviewed.

**Manifest Approval:** Discussion on legal expenses and major maintenance. Motion made to approve the 1/20/2021 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$329,387.05. 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.

Replaced the IDEXX Sealer, it is a piece of lab equipment that is used daily. Furnace was also repaired. Letter from Casella Organics with a CPI rate adjustment, the cost per ton increased as of 1/1/21.

**New Business:** Fire alarm system was inspected by Mammoth Fire Alarm. System only, not fire extinguishers. 2 smoke alarms in the headwords on the wet side have malfunctioned and will need to be replaced.

Discussion ensued on whether there are fire or panic alarms at the pump stations. Motion by R.Stern to have D.Messier look into the fire alarm systems and adding a manual alarm – panic or fire alarm pull station - at the pump stations. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

**Old Business:** New nitrogen permit has arrived and the intermunicipal agreement cost share range for testing the Great Bay Estuary was reviewed. Permit arrived February 1, 2021 and weekly nitrogen test has been performed. Agreement was sent to Attorney McEachern for review and his response was discussed. The agreement includes all 13 communities and covers cost sharing. Legal recommendation is to sign as it is a cost benefit to do so. D.Mercier has requested to be on the new intermunicipal board. A group from UNH has already been performing nitrogen testing.

Nitrogen testing was discussed, last tests were 2.3-2.9 with flow, about 3 pounds. Our nitrogen discharge number are lowest in the summer. The upgrade helped to lower our nitrogen discharge. Newington's percentage will be 1.08%. It is possible that if the other municipalities do not sign on our cost will increase. But it would be costly for them if they do not as they'll have to take the full cost of testing.

Motion by R.Stern to sign the intermunicipal agreement for water testing in Great Bay as approved by our Attorney Alex McEachern, and to further authorize the Chairman of the Sewer Commission to sign the agreement. Seconded by T. Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

Construction completion letter for forcemain project received from Granese. Project change orders discussed. Change order #2 had a \$50,000 dollar savings. Hydroseeding was not completed but will be done later. While change order #1 had additional expenses, change order # 2 had savings. Overall, the project savings was \$35,000.

Discussion of recording meetings. R.Stern advised he does not believe the Selectmen have the authority to require us to record the meetings as the Sewer Commission is an independent board. There are no concerns if someone wants to come in and record a meeting. Motion by R.Stern to table recording of meetings, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Next meeting Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 9 am at the wastewater treatment plant.

**Adjournment:** 9:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser