

Newington Sewer Commission 3/18/2020 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

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

Minutes: Minutes from 2/19/2020 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: February Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance for February was \$942,326.73. Operating Fund ending balance for January was \$1,098,557.35.

Manifest Approval: Motion made to approve the 3/18/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$60,367.77. 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.

D.Messier is planning for possible Covid-19 issues. Staff told to stay home if ill, additional supplies and chemicals have been ordered, but there is only so much space to store chemicals. He is in receipt of a letter from NH DES labeling them as Essential Employees during the Pandemic.

Tycom contacted D.Messier that there is a dip in their second driveway that goes to the back of their property by the Paul Brook Pumping Station. This was noticed by them almost a year ago, but they just recently notified the WWTP. It could possibly be due to a leak in the gravity line to the pumping station. D.Messier contacted Value Rooter who will be on site tomorrow to video the line for a leak. Once they can see what is going on with the pipe, they can plan for repair. They can possibly stop the flow, inflate a bubble and pump chemicals into the line to seal the pipe without having to dig it up. If the leak is large, then it will need to be dug up and repaired.

New Business: Election of officers. Motion by R.Stern to nominate S.Cole as Chairman, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

The SAG grant application will be submitted to the Governor's Council in June 2020. The Sewer Commissioners will need to assert and confirm with NH DES the service agreements from 2012 and 2014 were approved and paid for by the Newington Sewer Commission from Sewer funds.

Beth Malcom from NH DES is requested a joint meeting conference call with Sewer Commission and the Newington Selectmen to confirm who the check is going to be sent to, she has a couple of concerns. There were 2 actions that were approved and completed in 2012 and 2014 that were approved and done. The State Aid Grant is for 9 million and we'll receive 30% loan forgiveness. This grant covers work the work done prior to the SRF funding that was previously borrowed. We'll receive 30% back over 20 years.

A joint meeting will need to be scheduled with the Selectmen prior to April 8, 2020.

Motion by R.Stern to authorize S.Cole to sign on behalf of the Newington Sewer Commission, a letter to the state asserting and confirming the payment and receipt of the e about the 30% refund of the SAG loan, seconded by T.Hazelton approved.

The Sewer Commission will meet with the Board of Selectmen at 9 am on Thursday March 26, 2020 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Discussion then moved to the 2020 Sewer bills. 2 new accounts were added. The Commissioners discussed the Sewer surcharge. Historically this has been 10% of the sewer bill to fund the Enterprise Account. Last year the surcharge was cut in half to offset the increased sewer rates. However, several rate payers have approached the plant about the increase in sewer rates and currently several users have a decrease in business due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This year's sewer rates are based on last years usage, not current usage. Next year's rates will be based on their lower usage this year. Discussion on payment plans and reducing the surcharge due to the pandemic. Users with extreme hardship can contact D.Messier to discuss their bill.

Motion by R.Stern to reduce the Sewer Surcharge from 5% to 1% due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and stress on businesses and residences, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Old Business: Draft nitrogen permit comments have been sent over from L.Shields at Wright/Pierce. The EPA has extended public comment period to 4/8/2020. D.Messier did attend a meeting with the other 13 WWTP's impacted and there was a large political presence at the meeting. Rochester and Dover are currently doing studies.

Motion by R.Stern to send the nitrogen permit comments written by Wright/Pierce to the EPA, and further to authorize Chairmain S.Cole to sign the letter on behalf of the Newington Sewer Commission. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved and signed.

Forcemain project borings and groundwater samples were completed on 3/12-13, 2020. Waiting on sampling waters to send in water samples.

Sewer Commission went to closed meeting at 9:52 am to discuss upcoming Utility Partners Contract.

Public meeting resumed 10:19 am.

Next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Newington Board of Selectmen on March 26, 2020 at 9 am tentatively at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Next regular meeting will be April 15, 2020 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser