

Newington Sewer Commission 4/17/2019 APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

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

Minutes: Minutes from 3/20/19 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: Funds transfer to Sewer Enterprise account was made after Treasurer's report was submitted. March reports and bank statements reviewed. Treasurer's operating fund balance as of March 31st was \$635,329.66. Enterprise Account balance was \$761,165.78.

Manifest Approval: Motion by R.Stern to approve the purchase of air relief valves for the SBR 2 decanter in the amount of \$3,100, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved

Motion made to approve the 4/17/19 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$49,506.36. Seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved & signed.

Plant operators report: Flows are down from last year, sludge as billed. Preventative maintenance performed as scheduled. Yearly inspection of the centrifuge completed with no issues found. The safety ladders and hand rails were installed in the vaults.

New air relief valves for the SBR decant piping were purchased and installed.

Aqua Aerobics was brought in to repair the SBR 1 Decanter. One of the brackets had come loose causing it to work improperly. Aqua Aerobics had shipped replacement parts, but repairs to the bracket were able to be made with no additional part purchases needed.

D.Messier is organizing information for the 2018 Town Audit and is updating addresses for all sewer accounts. The SRF Loan Application for the Forcemain project has been sent to NH DES.

New Business: Discussion on expenditures and what should be purchased immediately and what should be voted on. Plant maintenance and life safety items to be purchased as needed due to the timely nature of them. Other large expenses to be voted on before purchase.

J.Tolman presented the 2019-2020 Utility Partners contract. As per the contract there will be a 1.7% increase based on the current CPI. In addition, Utility Partners is requesting an Out of Scope payment for costs that exceeded their budget – increased utility charges and costs for chemicals.

Discussion ensued on the CPI and the additional expenses. Some utility rates have increased, the plant is running more motors than it was before and there has been an increase in the use of polymer, sodium hypochlorite, and sodium bisulfite. The centrifuge is running more days a week than it has in the past. D.Messier advised that during the summer when conditions are drier, he may run only one tank to lower costs. He is also working on new testing to lower the cost of chemicals. There has also been a lot of debugging since the upgrade was completed last year. Discussion also turned to solar power and energy efficiencies. Solar panels were not feasible to do during the upgrade but will be researched as an option moving forward.

Motion by R.Stern to approve the 2019-2020 UP contract with an annual CPI adjustment of 1.7% equaling \$39,360.02 and an out of scope fee of \$16,000 for an annual contract fee of \$488,320 or \$40,693 per month and to authorize Chairman T.Cole to sign the contract. Seconded by T.Hazelton, all in favor, approved.

2019 Sewer charges were reviewed and discussed. 2019 rate will be \$31.48 per 100 cubic feet with a 5% billing surcharge. The 2018 rate was \$26.80 per 100/cf and the billing surcharge was 5%.

The plant has received correspondence from Casella Organics regarding notification from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) requiring all facilities to cease land application, composting, or processing of sludge until testing data for PFAS has been submitted. This is a new test that has not been completed on sludge. The background is that increased PFAS, which include PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS have been detected in water, soil, and in farm animals by MEDEP. Casella Organics is under contract to the Newington WWTP to haul our sludge. If it cannot be hauled to their facility in Maine it may need to be hauled to a landfill in Bethlehem, NH at a higher cost. Currently sludge is tested twice a year for our Federal Permit, but that does not include testing for PFAS. Samples have been sent for testing and this result will include the data for the Federal Permit requirements so there will not be any additional sample testing, but there will be expenses for the additional tests that they will perform on the sample. Casella Organics has concerns that they may be shut off from any land applying disposal in Maine. It is possible that the EPA and other States may also require municipalities to test for PFAS. We are in a contract with Casella Organics and both sides are protected with a 90-day notice of cancellation and a 5-year phase-out requirement. There are other sludge hauling and processing companies and possibly other options.

D.Messier will be researching the cost and storage for a replacement scroll for the centrifuge. The current one is 7-8 years old and is working fine, but if it ceases to work it can take up to 6-8 weeks to arrive on site. Without a centrifuge the WWTP would be hauling wet sludge at a drastically increased costs as we do not have an area to store sludge. Discussion ensued on costs and benefits of upgrading the centrifuge vs. having a spare scroll. L.Shields may be at the next meeting and could possibly suggest different options for the Commissioners. This is a fact-gathering project. Engineering would also be needed to design a cradle so that in-house replacement of the scroll could be accomplished.

Old Business: Discussion on vote for safety posts and if a vote should have been taken. Motion by R.Stern to approve the invoice to purchase and install 3 safety posts, second by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Next meeting will be May 15, 2019 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Klanchesser