

Newington Sewer Commission 5/20/2020 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 4/15/2020 reviewed. Motion by R.Stern to approve, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved.

Public Comment: None.

Treasurer's report: April Treasurer's report and bank statement reviewed. Enterprise Account balance for April was \$943,037.46. Operating Fund ending balance for April was \$860,076.67.

Manifest Approval: Discussion on SRF payment and testing fees. Waiting on Governor's Council on a rebate, delayed due to COVID-19. Motion made to approve the 5/20/2020 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$518,547.87. 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.

Sewer bills have been mailed, starting to receive payments. Discussion on how rates are calculated on previous years flow, next year will be billed at our current COVID-19 decreased usage. It is an upcoming budget concern that will need to be addressed.

COVID-19 is impacting several budgets and could impact upcoming contract negotiations. Commissioners briefly discussed benefit coverage for staff covered under contract.

High Effluent BOD levels noted, called in testing company. Water is clear, trying to determine where interference is originating. A possible culprit may be more people using hand sanitizer and rinsing it down the drain. Flows are down with business closures, and effluent is being tested. Levels are close to reaching a threshold to would incur a violation. D.Messier did speak with someone at the State and was advised other plants are noticing similar levels. An increased BOD has a higher alcohol content, possibly from rinsing alcohol-based hand sanitizers down the drains. A testing company and lab will do a report.

B.Douglas requesting to meet with the Sewer Commission on Wed 6/24/2020. Unable to attend today as he would need to quarantine when returning to Las Vegas. Motion by R.Stern to have a special non-public meeting under RSA 91-A:3 II on Wed 6/24/2020 to meet with B.Douglas to discuss the contract, seconded by T.Hazelton. All in favor, approved. Special meeting will be posted.

D.Messier contacted the State about the shovel-ready project. We are in the queue to receive funding if it does happen.

New Business: Commissioners requested a card send to L.Shields thanking her for her hard work on behalf of the sewer commission and wishing her well in her new position.

Old Business: Wright-Pierce updated forcemain schedule reviewed. Almost ready to send out 90-day submittals to the State. DES and client comments will be due 6/3/2020. Groundwater treatment of

PFOAs have been added to the project at an additional expense. D.Messier suggested to Wright-Pierce that they request a quote from GZA as they have been doing the groundwater work for Eversource and are familiar with Newington. There will be a report in the next few days for the Commissioners to read. The wetlands permit for the project has been received.

The Eversource project in Newington has been completed. D.Messier to send an invoice for a little over \$21,000 for water treatment.

No additional information on the Great Bay Nitrogen project. Each town is handling it differently, but all are in consensus that the EPA is only looking at communities with a point source permit for Great Bay and not looking at the many communities discharging into waterways that feed into Great Bay or the communities in Maine.

Next regular meeting will be June 17, 2020 at 9 am at the Newington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Adjournment: 9:39 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser