

**Newington Sewer Commission 7/18/2018      APPROVED MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 8:59 am.

**Present:** T. Cole Chairman, R.Stern, T.Field, D.Messier Utility Partners, S.Bullard Utility Partners, J.Tolman, Utility Partners. Guests E.Moe and P.Beauregard Stoneface Brewery.

**Minutes:** Minutes from 6/20/18 reviewed. Motion by T.Field to approve, seconded by R.Stern All in favor, approved.

**Public Comment:** E.Moe and P.Beauregard from Stoneface Brewery were in attendance to discuss the sewer rate increase and the abatement process or bill relief. Water is a key ingredient of beer and they would have budgeted differently had they known the increase would have been so high. D.Messier advised he has been fielding many calls with the same questions and concerns. The Commissioners advised that anything that goes down the drain must be treated at the plant and that in hindsight a letter should have been sent to all sewer users when the project began. The upgrades were mandated by the EPA and the Enterprise Fund surcharge was decreased to provide some relief to the overall increase in sewer billing. Any abatement made would impact all the other ratepayers as the operating fund and loan payments must be funded. The increase in the sewer bill is not permanent, it will not continue once the upgrade has been paid for. Stoneface will be working with D.Messier to set up a payment plan and will forward any requests for abatement in writing for the Commissioners to review.

Discussion ensued about the increase and ratepayer inquiries on sewer billing. The cost to run the plant must be divided among all the ratepayers. We can't change what we didn't do 2 years ago

**Treasurer's report:** June reports and bank statements reviewed. Operating fund balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$671,067.13. Sewer Enterprise Fund balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$358,138.71. Sewer payments have been coming in.

**Manifest Approval:** Motion made to approve the 7/18/18 manifest by R.Stern in the amount of \$72,932.70. Seconded by T.Field. All in favor, approved & signed.

**Plant operators report:** Flows are down, sludge as billed. Preventative maintenance performed as scheduled.

**Old Business:** Upgrade Project: Still working on heating system issued.

Still receiving calls on 2018 billing.

Copy of NH DES Inspection report discussed. D.Messier working on required responses to report.

Landscaping has been completed.

M.Phillips sent a packet to the Commission that included copies of the deeds for the property between River Road and Shattuck Way in regard to the abandoned sewer line. Paperwork reviewed. D.Messier will contact lawyer for advice on relinquishing the sewer easement.

Power issue with one of the pump stations has been resolved.

**New Business:** Introduction of Jefferson Tolman, new VP at Utility Partners. Discussion of plant payments from Utility Partners corporate office.

Buckets and grids ordered for Grit and screenings.

Letter from NH DES requesting updates to the Sewer Use ordinance and IPP program.

Wright Pierce and NH DES are finalizing the Asset Management Plan. A representative from NH DES has requested to attend a future meeting to discuss the plan.

Next meeting will be August 15, 2018 at 9 am.

**Adjournment:** 9:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Klanchesser