

Minutes of the September 12, 2018 Water and Sewer Commissioner Meeting

Present: Jay Spahl, Tom Fournier, Scott Zajkowski, Scott Piekarczyk, George Patrinis, Lori Smith

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. First item on the agenda was the acceptance of the 8/8/18 minutes. Scott Z. made a motion to accept the minutes of the 8/8/18 meeting as written, Tom seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

Reorganization:

Scott P. said that he would like to keep the same organization of the board if all were still willing to serve. Jay said that he would be willing to continue as Chairman as long as no one else was interested. Scott P made a motion to appoint Jay Spahl as Chairman, Tom seconded. Jay abstained. All in favor, passed unanimously. Tom made a motion to appoint Scott Zajkowski as Vice-Chairman, Scott P seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. Tom made a motion to appoint Fred as Clerk, Jay seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

31 Tanyard Road- Howe Rental Properties LLC:

On August 14, 2018 it was learned that this property, 31 Tanyard Road, has an illegally connected storm drain to the town sewer line. The homeowner was informed that they must immediately disconnect this drain as it is prohibited. On three separate occasions this violation was noted and owner was notified: Aug. 14th, Aug. 21st, and Aug. 22nd. A fine was issued for \$900.00. The homeowner did not pay this fine and chose not to attend this meeting. The board stated that this fine was too low as the by-law allows for a \$300.00 fine per day to be assessed while in violation. The board instructed Lori to send a letter to the homeowner fining him \$300.00 per day beginning with August 14th. Mike and Tim will go out to the home tomorrow to inspect and see if it is still connected. Scott P. made a motion to send a letter to Howe Rental Properties LLC, c/o Mr. Robert Howe, stating that his illegal connection is in violation of by-law and that he will be fined a minimum of \$300.00 per day beginning August 14, 2018 until the date of disconnection, reserve the right to go back three years, and that the Water Dept. needs to inspect and sign off that it is disconnected., Tom seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. Tom asked that Lori send them all an email stating the outcome of the visit to 31 Tanyard Road.

I & I Study:

Scott Z. mentioned that Paul Brinkman's feedback on Tighe & Bond's I & I study brought up some viable questions that he feels needs to be answered. After discussion, it was decided to send Paul Brinkman's concerns to Marina of Tighe & Bond for a response. Scott P. asked Lori to hold off on sending the feedback to Marina until he and Tom check with Paul to make sure that he doesn't mind it being sent to Tighe & Bond. Scott P. said that he would like to hire Paul for the I & I study. Jay said that the Treasurer already stated that he will not sign off on any payments to a contractor that does not have liability insurance. Paul said that he is currently in the process of obtaining liability insurance. Jay said there is time to work on any changes to the document submitted this as the first phase doesn't begin until April 2019.

The board reviewed the warrant article for the October Town Meeting regarding the funding for phase of the I & I study.

Tom made a motion to submit the following warrant article for the October 29 Special Town Meeting;

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account (#0060-000-3590-01) the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty dollars and 00 cents (\$49,560.00) for Phase I of the DEP mandated Inflow and Infiltration Study, or take any other action relative thereto.

Scott Z. seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

Rates for Dudley Flow to the Webster Sewer Treatment Plant:

Scott Z said that we have not had any rate changes for the flow to the Webster Sewer Treatment Plant for a number of years. Lori stated that she has the schedule for rates until June 2018 which is the same as last year at \$38,500. Per month. Jay said that they are supposed to true-up every twelve months. Scott said that they cannot go back retroactively more than 6 months with a rate change. Dudley has sent registered letters to Webster for several years, going back to the previous Town Administrator to no avail. Scott P. requested a copy of the most recent agreement with the Town of Webster.

Permits/Fees:

Discussion about updating our regulations to increase the penalties for tampering, estimating readings, etc. George presented proposed upgrades for the board to consider. Scott P. questioned how our current fee schedule was developed. He is looking to see backup for how these fees were calculated. Jay suggested getting a copy of the fee schedule from Webster to see if we are in line with them. Scott made a motion to table the discussion of the fees until we can verify the amounts set in place for our current fee schedule prior to adjusting and publicizing, Tom seconded. All in favor passed unanimously.

Unmetered Private hydrants:

Scott asked this be put on the agenda due to the recent hydrant break at the Ethan Allen mill. Scott Z. suggested putting a meter on the hydrants. George said that you cannot meter a hydrant with a suppression system. He said that there are many private hydrants, such as Nichols, Park N Shop etc., but the difference is that these are always accessible if there is ever a problem. George said that perhaps we could put a flow valve at their expense, on their side of the gate so that we will be able to see that something is going on there. The board inquired as to whether or not we have access to the hydrant at the Ethan Allen mill. George informed them that he has the telephone number for the person living there to call. Tom questioned what would happen if he/she was not home at the time of an emergency. The board would like to see some sort of a lock system for access to the property.

Sewer Monthly Report:

Started jetting at night (court house to Cumberland Farms); cut & trimmed plant and stations; fixed jetter; fixed pump at Conant (Solonoid); met with Tighe & Bond regarding I&I study, deodorized various stations; fixed 59 Dudley Hill Road pump problem; met with Bill Emerson for Carpenter Road; and replace manhole cover on Dudley Hill Road.

Water Monthly Report:

Short on manpower due to vacations; put in 15 radio read systems; sent station #6 chemical feed pump out for rehab (ordered new EMIC replacement); continuous work on meter replacements and repair; worked on Fire Station tie-in – hydrant location is not the best but needed at spot it is due to the driveway configuration; dug at W. Main St. by Cumberland Farms to repair 12" gate valve that was leading; worked at 28 West St. to repair service line; continuous issues with station #6 communication line and chemical alarm systems; working with LaFleur on communication overhaul-alarm rehab-and flow alarm for mills; met with CMRPC on Hazard Mitigation and Identification; and met with DPW study Consultant (MRI) on Tuesday, 9/11/18. Scott asked that the board be informed as to when the next meeting is scheduled for with MRI.

George stated that he watched the Selectmen's meeting and it seemed to him that the Selectmen were a little confused about the direction the Water Dept. is going in. The Town Administration is clear on the direction as he has been negotiating with the union on George's behalf to become the temporary Superintendent and has come to an agreement on a small percentage of an increase that George will receive to take on some additional duties. George said that doesn't know if it needs to be official as the Selectmen were at a loss on this issue. He plans on attending the next Selectmen meeting to answer any questions they may have. In terms of a Superintendent to oversee the day to day operations of the department, George stated that DEP requires a certified operator who has been in this system for 1 year with all of the licenses. He said that he fits these requirements and that Brian has all of the required licenses but in an operator in training at the present time. George said that he has been working as the temporary Water Superintendent and Mike Krajcik handles the Sewer end of things. He said that this has been working well as everyone has been pitching in and taking on additional responsibilities. Tom said that he feels this board needs to make it official and Scott Z. questioned whether it needed to be posted. Tom made a motion to appoint George Patrinos as interim Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Department, Scott P. seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. George said that we are waiting on a written contract from the Town Administrator. It was mentioned that the Selectmen want to wait until the DPW study is completed in December before filling the Superintendent position. Scott Z. said that in the future the board should be informed about any meetings with MRI (DPW Study Consultant) or anytime Water/Sewer issues are on the agenda for the Selectmen meeting. In order to avoid any problems, it should be posted as a Water/Sewer meeting. The board instructed Lori to send a letter to the Town Administrator requesting that we be notified when Water/Sewer Dept. issues will be discussed at their meetings.

Old Business:

27 Tanyard Road: At the 8/8/18 Water and Sewer Commissioner's meeting it was voted to charge Jeff Conrard of 27 Tanyard Road 100% of his water bill and 25% of his sewer bill due to a pipe leak. Lori stated that when she went to process the abatement the Treasurer told her that he and the auditor would have an issue with this credit unless hard numbers can be produced to show the justification for this. This cannot be done as due to being denied access for several years the quarterly billings had been estimated and there was not a final reading requested at the time of the sale of the property. Mr. Conrad has since paid this invoice in full. Scott Z. made a motion to rescind the previous vote from 8/8/18 regarding 27 Tanyard Road, Tom seconded. Three in favor, Scott P voted nay. Motioned passed by majority.

Jesse Road Proposed Development:

At the 4/4/28 Water and Sewer Commissioner's meeting on 4/4/18 the board voted to grant approval for water permits for 20 single family house lots off of Jesse Road in accordance with our regulations. We later learned that this site was in the Water Shed Protection District and first requires a public hearing. Tom made a motion to rescind the 4/4/18 vote concerning the Jesse Road project, Tom seconded. Three voted in favor, Scott P abstained. Motion passed by majority.

Cost of Ethan Allen hydrant break:

The board feels that due to the inadequate protection of the property and lack of access to the hydrant that the town should be able to recover the costs associated with the hydrant break at the Ethan Allen mill. Brian calculated the associated costs: water loss, regular and overtime, water testing, etc. resulting in a total cost of \$5,573.35. George suggested first sending Town Counsel an overview of the situation and a breakdown of the associated costs for his opinion on the legality of this. The board would like to put this on hold until they have had time to double check these figures.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm, Scott Z. seconded. All in favor, unanimously passed.