

August 10, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Public Library.

Present: John Hasenjaeger, Glenn Maffei, William Abbott and Patrick Fasanello. Also Bernie Marshall, Supt. of Sewer and Water; Scott Gustafson, Asst. Supt. of Sewer and Water; and Rick Mattson, DPW Director.

REORGANIZATION

Motion Made by John Hasenjaeger to nominate William Abbott as Chairman. Second by Glenn Maffei. There are no other nominations. Vote 3-0-1, Fasanello abstained.

Motion Made by William Abbott to nominate Glenn Maffei as Clerk. Second by Glenn Maffei.

Motion Made by John Hasenjaeger to nominate himself as Clerk. Second by Patrick Fasanello.

Vote for nomination for Glenn Maffei as Clerk 2-0-0, Abbott and Maffei in favor.

Vote for nomination for John Hasenjaeger as Clerk 1-0-1, Fasanello abstains. Reorganization for Clerk will be put on the next agenda.

All abatements submitted today are reviewed and signed.

Minutes submitted are reviewed and discussed. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the minutes of June 8, 2020 as amended. Second by John Hasenjaeger. Vote 4-0-0. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the minutes of July 27, 2020 as amended. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Marshall reports that they are continuing with the lagoon at the Willis Treatment Plant. DEP performed a Sanitary Survey on August 5th and he feels they did very well as they had no issues with any deficiencies and is anticipating a good report. Phase 1 of the SCADA is in the process. Sewer station rehab sub bids are due August 20 and September 30 and the site visit for the subcontractors will begin tomorrow. There was a small leak on Pleasant Street and the crew has been working on a drain issue on Oak St. Mr. Abbott asks if there are any demand problems and Mr. Marshall responds that they have been keeping up with demand. Mr. Maffei asks if they have been enforcing the Water Management Policy and the answer is yes. Mr. Abbott reports the pumpage for May and June and says he just got July which is only down 9%. Mr. Maffei asks if he has the revenue for July and Mr. Abbott responds that he has not received it yet and will be visiting the Town Accountant after the meeting to see if he can get the numbers.

54 ANDERSON WAY ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION

Mr. Vaduka has sent several emails requesting consideration on a violation fine he received last year in the amount of \$5000 for taking water for his irrigation system for 5 years without a meter. He gives reasons why he believes he should receive relief from this fine. There is discussion and it is suggested that the owner should pursue this with the irrigation company. All agree that no adjustments by this Commission will be made to this account.

FALL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES/CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Abbott asks Mr. Marshall about an article for the Asset Management Grant Program. Mr. Marshall says he would like the support of the Board as it is a good deal and otherwise will have to wait until October 18th. He says it is written for \$70,000 however the Town would only be responsible for

\$28,000. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to support an article for the Asset Management Grant Program. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

Mr. Fasanello says he does not see any information regarding a parking lot at Jarvis Farm. He would like an article to locate and design this as he feels a secure parking lot is needed to protect the aquifer. Mr. Maffei speaks about the area under the high tension line however we don't own it. Mr. Fasanello feels it can go anywhere as long as it is secure. Mr. Maffei would like to be sure it is feasible before any money is spent. Mr. Abbott asks Mr. Mattson about the path from the Morningside Pump Station and he responds that it is a drainage swale. Mr. Hasenjaeger speaks of the fact that under the high tension wires is a right of way. Mr. Mattson says we would not be allowed to put this under these wires and offers to have public works look at this and come up with a layout and put some budgetary numbers together. Mr. Abbott then speaks of the sewer capital. The first item is \$82,500 for MTU's and it is explained that this amount is split between water and sewer as sewer charges are based on water usage. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to support an article under sewer for \$82,500 for Meter Transmission Units (MTU's). Second by John Hasenjaeger. Mr. Fasanello feels the Town needs to be more fastidious in their notifications of high water use. He received 3 complaints of leaky toilets and they were never told. He is asked for the addresses so they could be looked into and he declined to provide them. There is discussion on this. Vote on the motion 4-0-0. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to sponsor an article to rehabilitate the Eleanor Road and Morningside Drive Sewer Pump Stations in the amount of \$325,000. Second by John Hasenjaeger. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Abbott asks if these are the last of the sewer pump stations and Mr. Mattson responds no, there is still Eldor Drive, Ganawatte Farms and High Oaks. Mr. Maffei would like to speak about retained earnings. Mr. Abbott tells that the sewer retained earnings is at \$2.1 million and taking \$600,000 will bring it down to \$1.5 million and then taking another \$410,000 will result in retained earnings of \$1.1 million and he is not sure that we should go any further. Mr. Maffei speaks of the formula he has where retained earnings should not go below 15% and these articles would bring it down to 20% so we should be okay here. Mr. Abbott adds that administration is not asking for anything else in sewer. The discussion then goes to water capital. Mr. Abbott says there are \$1,672,500 worth of requests and if we do that it will bring our water retained earnings down extremely low. We started at \$2.7 million and \$400,000 is to reduce the rate, another \$400,000 is to address the shortfall and that it would bring it to \$1.9 million. If \$1.6 is used for capital it would bring retained earnings down to \$300,000 and the Finance Director feels this is too low. Mr. Marshall says they are going to try in house work at the Willis for the conventional cleaning of the raw water main and this would eliminate #5 of the capital budget at \$225,000. Mr. Abbott says the meter transmitter units for \$82,500 will match the sewer. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to support an article for water in the amount of \$82,500 for meter transmitter units (MTU's). Second by John Hasenjaeger. Mr. Maffei says he is not prepared to vote this and asks how many MTU's will be bought and Mr. Mattson responds it would be for 1500. Mr. Maffei says he would like to be in a comfortable place financially in case something should happen. Mr. Mattson suggests providing a figure that the Commission is comfortable with and administration can work with this number and re-prioritize. He says none of the filters are dire and these can be phased. The MTU's are for maintenance. He reminds that there will be a large debt drop off and they just need to provide a number they are comfortable with. Mr. Abbott says he would like \$1 million in retained earnings. Mr. Maffei says he would be comfortable with 15% or 20% which would be just over \$800,000. Mr. Mattson says they could forgo things until spring and they could be part of the budget instead of standalone articles. Mr. Maffei would like to defer to the Superintendent for his priorities. Mr. Abbott feels it is important to rehabilitate the filters as they are all the same age and we have already had some problems. Mr. Marshall feels the filters are a priority because of the failures. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks if priority #2 or #3 is more critical. Mr. Mattson feels priority #3 is more critical, which is the generator replacement of Washington #6 and Old Post Road. Mr. Hasenjaeger feels #1 (Delaney WTP Filter Rehabilitation) and #3 (Generator Replacement Wash. #6 and OPR) are what should be done. Mr. Abbott says our reserves are based on what we do for capital. He is looking at the year ahead for the rates. He feels we need to be careful as we don't want to go any lower than \$1million. He was thinking of only doing Washington #6 generator. Mr. Hasenjaeger reminds that there are some big projects coming down. Mr. Abbott just wants us to be prepared to pay for the

projects. Mr. Maffei asks if it is feasible to do one generator now and one 6 months later. Mr. Mattson feels bidding together would probably get us a better price. There is some discussion on the generators and Mr. Fasanello says we could be in big trouble if they didn't work when needed. **Motion Made** by John Hasenjaeger to support capital projects #1 (E.J. Delaney WTP Filter Rehabilitation) for \$385,500, #3 (Generator Replacement Washington #6 and Old Post Road) for \$430,000, and #4 (Meter Transmitter Units) for \$82,500. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

Mr. Hasenjaeger asks Mr. Marshall about future budget items needed. Mr. Marshall talks about cast iron and asbestos pipes that need to be replaced in different areas. Mr. Hasenjaeger would like it if he could see a map which shows the areas where these pipes are. Mr. Fasanello talks about regulating private wells. There is discussion and it is asked that the next agenda include discussion on regulating non-residential private wells.

Mr. Fasanello then speaks of trash outside of the Old Post Road tank and asks that the Town take care of it and clean it up.

Mr. Abbott asks about sewer expansion and wonders if there is any intent to expand. Mr. Mattson feels it should be expanded and it is listed as TBD because this Board never adopted the Sewer Master Plan. It is asked that this subject also be put on the next agenda.

Motion Made by John Hasenjaeger to adjourn. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved October 5, 2020