

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2008

Present: Charles Haddock, Chairman
Laurence Thayer, Vice Chairman
Donald E. Smith-Secretary
Rodney Jenkins-Sewer Superintendent
Laurie Lapierre-Recording Secretary

The Town of North Brookfield Sewer Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. DISCUSS AND/OR ACCEPT MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2008 MEETING.

Mr. Thayer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor, approved.

2. DISCUSS SEA SCOPE OF WORK. PROPOSAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000.00.

Tabled until we receive a response from E.P.A.

3. DISCUSS ECONOMIC STIMULUS INFORMATION.

Mr. Jenkins spelled out the needs of the Town that was submitted to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Timothy Murray for consideration of an economic stimulus funding package.

Included within the report the following:

- 31,000 feet of sewer line that has not been inspected or rehabilitated since it was built in the 1930-1950 time period. Estimated \$1.8 Million Dollars
- Upgrade degrading service lateral lines entering into the sewer. These lines are estimated to be causing over 50% of the I & I into the system. This is needed to comply with the EPA NPDES Permit Order. Estimated: \$2.1 Million Dollars.
- The Town is under an EPA Administrative order to address and comply too violations of copper, zinc and aluminum. SEA Consultants has forwarded a Scope of Work to the EPA and we await

- comments. The cost of the scope of work \$161,000.00. Additionally, EPA will probably order the Town to build a membrane filter system to be housed on site. Estimated: \$3 Million Dollars
- The Town has a rough design and a cost estimate for building $\frac{3}{4}$ mile access road in the Arch Street X Country Sewer Easement. The line, built in 1970 has never been maintained and there is no vehicle access in the event of emergency. Estimate: \$950,000.00
 - The Town has design and a cost estimate for an automatic generator transfer system for the Warren Street Pump Station. This is needed during power outages for the Water Treatment Plant continues running by generator and discharges into sewer. This gives the staff 45 minutes to respond before a sewer back up. Estimate: \$300,000.00
 - In 2000 the Town of East Brookfield failed by Town vote to join North Brookfield in providing sewer to 650 homes around Lake Lashaway. There is much concern by the Lake Association of failing septic systems polluting the lake. Recently East Brookfield expressed interest in renewing this expansion. Estimate: \$20 Million Dollars
 - The Waste Water Treatment Facility is in serious need of a heating upgrade. The original heating system built in 1994 is non efficient and non functional at times. Estimate: \$50,000.00

The Commissioners praised Mr. Jenkins for the detailed report, the information was taken under advisement.

4. DISCUSS/VOTE ON MR. SALEM'S ABATEMENT REQUEST.

Mr. Jenkins reviewed the letter that was sent in the Commissioners Package. Mr. Jenkins stated to the Commissioners "that after much thought, it came to me that in the case of the abatement for 13 Maple Street that it does not set precedence. Madix had a similar situation." The Sewer Department at that time came up with an agreeable solution. The water usage from the previous four billings was averaged. The difference from the "leak episode" versus four prior billing averages was abated. In the case of Mr. Salem using the same technique to abate, his abatement, if approved, would be \$515.27.

After discussion, Mr. Thayer made a motion to approve an abatement for 13 Maple Street, Salem's property, in the amount of \$515.27 due to a plumbing leak. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor,

approved.

5. DISCUSS LAURIE LAPIERRE'S VACATION SCHEDULE.

Laurie Lapierre explained that due to an indefinite amount of snow days in the fiscal year 09 school calendar her kids may be going to school right up until June 30th. The vacation was originally scheduled June 19th to the 26th when school let out. Laurie Lapierre requested that her remaining one weeks vacation be rolled over to fiscal year 2010. Mrs. Lapierre has temporarily booked a vacation the week of July 11th to the 18th while she awaits approval from the Board.

Mr. Thayer made a motion to roll over the remaining vacation days from fiscal year 09 into fiscal year 2010 for Mrs. Lapierre. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor, approved.

6. SIGN BILLS AND PAYROLL.

Mr. Thayer questioned \$316.56 payable to Ahearn Equipment on the December 9, 2008 warrant. Mr. Jenkins explained that it was for the purchase of a chain saw to clear the Arch Street easement for access to manholes. It also came in handy when we had to cut our way down to the Warren Street Pump Station during the ice storm.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed off on bills and payroll.

7. DISCUSS BUDGETS (INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKETS).

Mr. Jenkins explained in reference to the 2009 budget there is a spending freeze and all purchases must go through him. Mr. Jenkins projects that the line item for chemicals will have a deficit of \$24,825.00. Any positive line items may make up the deficit within the budget barring any crisis. If we see we are in crisis we have up to 14 days prior to the Town Meeting to place an article on the warrant to transfer funds from the Enterprise Account. The Commissioners took this under advisement.

Mr. Jenkins announced that he had to submit a corrected 2010 budget.

Southbridge announced in April their upgrade will be complete and they are going on line and their facility will have the capability to receive 60,000 gallons of septage per day. With this in mind, septage receiving will be dramatically reduced here at the plant. We originally budgeted in \$304,080 and in light of this information septage receiving has been reduced to \$148,000.

Mr. Jenkins stated that within the line item budget he has dropped electricity down to \$115,000 from \$121,000 and with the knowledge of less septage it is a gamble but solid waste removal was reduced from \$154,000 to \$114,000. Even with these reductions sewer user fees will still increase. The expenses have dropped \$47,000 but the revenue has decreased.

The Commissioners discussed the Administrative Order we are facing and alternatives to the budget. All was taken under advisement.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted.

Laurie J. Lapierre
Recording Secretary