

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

February 7, 2011

Present:

Donald E. Smith-Vice Chairman
John Farmer-Secretary
Rodney Jenkins-Sewer Superintendent
Laurie Lapierre-Recording Secretary

The Town of North Brookfield Sewer Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

1. DISCUSS AND OR ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2011 MEETING.

Mr. Smith noted that item 1 on the minutes should read "Discuss and or accept meeting minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting."

Mr. Farmer made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor approved.

2. SIGN BILLS AND PAYROLL.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed off on bills and payroll.

3. ONGOING PROJECTS/PROBLEMS.

Mr. Smith asked for a status on the new tractor. Mr. Jenkins explained that the new tractor should be arriving around the 16th of February. A set of chains will also be purchased for the rear tractor tires.

Parts were ordered for the plant water pump. They came in wrong. We have a 6" impeller but received a 3 1/2" impeller. We are working on correcting the problem.

The new Penn Valley diaphragm pump is now leaking. We just began taking it apart this afternoon. The extent of repairs is unknown.

Mr. Jenkins reported that he had an alarm at 10 p.m. on Bigelow Street February 3rd. Pump #1 tripped the main breaker. National Grid traced the power failure to the inside of the building. Brown Electric and R.H. White Co. both determined that the motor had failed. R.H. White pulled the pump to have the motor rewound. Mr. Jenkins explained that continued problems with these two pumps are basically due to old age. After discussions with the pump manufacturer and R.H. White, Mr. Jenkins told the board that it is probably time to purchase a new pump. Mr. Jenkins stated that when a new pump is purchased, it will replace the pump we just had repaired. We will keep the pump we just had repaired as a spare. The Board agreed that we should obtain quotes for a new pump. Mr. Smith suggested we contact the manufacturer that Quaboag deals with for a quote. Mr. Jenkins agreed to obtain a quote.

4. CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON FY 2012 BUDGET.

Mr. Jenkins stated that nothing has changed. We are awaiting word from Town Council regarding Adam's salary request and also word on merit increases.

5. PRESENT RESULTS OF 2009 SEWER RATE SURVEY.

Mr. Jenkins pointed out that the survey shows that the average sewer bill in Massachusetts runs the homeowner approximately \$638.00. The figure showing for North Brookfield is incorrect and was not supplied by this office. The average sewer bill for the Town of North Brookfield runs approximately \$720.00. This is a tad above the state average. We are much closer now to the average now than we were five years ago.

6. SET SECOND HALF SEWER BILLING RATE.

Mr. Jenkins stated that we have the usage figures for the second half billing of FY 2011. If we stay the same rate considering what was billed previously and what is owed currently less abatements, we are short approximately \$5,000 in projected revenue.

After consideration, Mr. Farmer made a motion to increase sewer rates 1%. Mr. Smith seconded the motion; all were in favor, approved.

The rates are as follows:

100% Rate .012400 or \$12.40/1000 gallons
90% Rate .011160 or \$11.16/1000 gallons

OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr. Jenkins notified the Commissioners that he is working on the Town Report.

Mr. Jenkins is also working on the three year flow results since the completion of the Little Canada Project. There is a 23% change in flow which is significant.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted.

Laurie Lapierre
Recording Secretary