

Board of Sewer Commissioners
59 East Brookfield Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2016

Present: Charles Haddock, Chairman
John Farmer, Clerk
Rodney Jenkins, Sewer Superintendent

The Town of North Brookfield Sewer Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. Discuss and accept minutes from May 9, 2016 meeting.

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

2. Superintendent Report.

The Penn Valley septage receiving pump blew a hole in the casing. The valves were shut and the problem isolated. A new casing ordered. Septage haulers Alm and Barnes pumped down the pump chamber. We are looking into a pump exchange, the second pump is 20 plus years old.

The Town received a grant to upgrade our software (water, sewer and collector). In the meantime we are going to switch from Verizon internet service to Charter to hopefully correct our connectivity issues. I was also informed a new computer was on order for us and they were looking at Pointe software as our billing program. Mr. Jenkins explained that this department for a short period of time had switched to Pointe Software but due to customer service issues switched back to our current software program BMSI. Laurie Lapierre did contact Leslie Burton the Administrative Assistant to make her aware of this situation and our displeasure with Pointe Software. Mr. Jenkins stated he was going to check on what was ordered for a computer.

3. Sign bills, payroll and any commitments/abatements.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed off on payroll and warrants dated June 30 #2 FY 16 and 7/14/2016.

4. Update status of final FY 16 budget.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the unofficial year end balance is \$9,850.78. \$7,000 of this amount was drawn out at the Town meeting in the event of an emergency.

5. Discuss Mr. Lairds request for sewer extension.

Mr. Jenkins explained that Mr. Laird was in questioning the feasibility of running a gravity line from his son's home on 1 Bell Street to Manhole X13. This is approximately a 240' run and it is 6.5 deep to the invert. Mr. Laird stated his son is having issues with his E1 pump.

Upon investigation and in Mr. Jenkins opinion, it does not seem possible to gravity feed in this case. If $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot drop is calculated, then a 4" pipe would have a five foot drop to the manhole. Given that the pipe coming out of the house is at least 4 feet underground, it would make it very unlikely that a gravity feed would be possible. In any event, it was stated that the project would have to be approved by this Commission and an engineering design/proposal presented. Mr. Jenkins further explained that this would be an expensive project and recommends Mr. Laird contact the sales representative for the pump manufacturer to troubleshoot the issues.

A letter was forwarded with this information to Mr. Laird and copies presented to the Commissioners.

6. Discuss final report for the DEP ammonia study.

The final copy of the report is no different in findings than the interim report. There have been no issues since removing GTC. "Though, as domestic wastewater flows increase over time biological treatment capacity available for septage will be reduced. Septage capacity would also be reduced when, and if, a lower nitrogen effluent limit (should it be imposed) is received. Therefore, continuing to receive septage at current, or increased, levels would require additional septage storage capacity".

Three options were proposed:

Option 1: Construction of a new storage tank to replace the existing 8,000 gallons of storage. It would consist of a 30,000 gallon storage tank with bar rack, mixers and transfer pumps. Approximate cost \$422,000.

Option 2: Construction of a storage tank and installation of an automated access control station. The access control station is equipped with a flow meter, PH probe and analyzer to automatically measure/record the flow and PH of septage load. Approximate cost \$570,000.

Option 3: Construction of a storage tank, installation of an access control station, and a package pretreatment system. The package pretreatment system can include a fine screen and grit removal system to remove and dewater large solids and grit from septage before being discharged to the storage tank. It would benefit downstream

equipment and minimize maintenance of storage tank and transfer pumps.
Approximate cost \$1,186,000.

After much discussion regarding potential upgrades, the Commissioners agreed to look into the cost of a conceptual design type study to deal with future total nitrogen limits. Mr. Jenkins explained that we will eventually have to meet new limits and this study will need to be done. The longer we wait the more costly the study will get. Mr. Jenkins will contact Mark Thompson of Kleinfelder.

7. Discuss DEP/EPA site visit.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the visit and tour of the facility went well. Jennifer Wood and Margo Webber represented the DEP and David Pincumbe and Douglas Koopman represented the EPA. Our engineers, Mark Thompson and Jason Tang were also present.

EPA is working on our permit. The nitrogen and phosphorous limits are questionable.

EPA takes into consideration the economic impact an upgrade will have on the Town. Tighe and Bond published a report stating that North Brookfield residents pay on average \$430 yearly for sewer. This is incorrect. When calculating the amount of customers against the flow the average yearly sewer bill in town is \$730.00. Mr. Jenkins will forward the information to Mr. Pincumbe of the EPA.

We will await a report/permit from the DEP and EPA.

8. Reorganize Board for FY 17.

Mr. Farmer made a motion to keep the same officers as FY 2016. Mr. Farmer seconded the motion; all were in favor, approved. The officers are as follows:

Charles Haddock-Chairman
Donald E. Smith-Vice Chairman
John Farmer-Secretary

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Jenkins mentioned that several customers have been calling both departments questioning swimming pool allowances. After much discussion it was agreed that the ruling will stand. There will be no allowance for the filling of swimming pools. A ten percent deduction is all ready given to all customers for outside water use.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Lapierre
Recording Secretary