

**MINUTES OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015 - 3PM**

Present: Chairman Walter Liff, Ex-Officio Selectman David McGuckin, Supr. of Public Works, Steve Tabbutt and Secretary Bette Jane Riordan.

Members present: John Ireland, Normand Houle, and Walter Glidden.

Alternates Present: Reg Whitehouse, Chet Fessenden.

Deb Knowles, Town Accountant.

Chairman Liff called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1. Review, approve and sign checks.

Chairman Liff reviewed and read the accounts payable checks to the Commission. Deb Knowles reported that New Castle had not yet received the water bills from Portsmouth. She also reported that a refund of \$83.76 was made to Edmund and Joanne Arsenault of 35 Grist Mill Lane (\$16.32 for water; \$67.44 for sewer) for usage adjustment from 26 units to 16 units. Selectman McGuckin stated they would monitor the usage at this property.

John Ireland made a Motion to Accept the checks as written and presented. Norm Houle seconded, and the Motion carried.

Deb Knowles clarified any questions from the Commission regarding the water bills. She indicated the bills have not yet come in. Normand Houle made a motion to accept the checks as read. John Ireland seconded, and the motion carried.

2. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Pumping Stations Update.

In response to Normand Houle's question concerning cost estimates for potential replacement of the Town's three pumping stations, Steve Tabbutt reported that The Commission would have a draft of the engineering study, which Portsmouth has "required" we undertake, sometime in January 2016, and that the study would hopefully provide a more accurate estimate of the cost rather than the "rough order estimate" that Norm had originally requested.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Wentworth Grease Issue.

Selectman McGuckin summarized the situation to date. Steve Tabbutt also reported on the matter. Earlier this week (week of October 12, 2015) the Town's inspection of its sewer pump that handles the hotel's waste indicated a significant amount of grease which caused blockage in the Quarterdeck Lane pumping station. Steve had contacted Jack Clifford from the Wentworth and determined that the grease originated from the hotel kitchen and that the grease traps weren't performing. Pictures were taken of the condition of the hotel pump, which catches the hotel kitchen waste and feeds into the Town's pump. Selectman McGuckin reminded the Commission that the same problem occurred in December 2013

when the hotel had one grease trap. At the time the hotel added a second grease trap and the installation appeared to have fixed the problem. Steve Tabbutt reported that when he spoke with the vendor, who is also the town's vendor, he indicated the hotel's traps and pumps should be cleaned more frequently. Steve described a very serious situation with the amount of coagulated grease.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that the situation was serious enough to warrant immediate notification of hotel personnel to rectify the problem. However in reviewing the applicable ordinances, including fines for violations, the Commission concluded that the fines were still at \$35.00 per day. Steve Tabbutt did not believe that would be effective in remedying the problem. While the Commission had just completed rewriting and revising the ordinances, which included a raise in the daily fine to \$100.00, there had not been a formal recommendation to the Select Board, and adoption by the Board. Upon further consideration, the Commission agreed to table the ordinance and fines matter pending the outcome of the Select Board's special meeting for increase of fine rates because of the seriousness of the issue, however, the Commission asked that a letter be directed to the hotel putting them on notice of the violations. Selectman McGuckin agreed to draft a letter.

4. Any other Business to come before the Commission.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, John Ireland made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Norm Houle. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.