

MINUTES OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016 – 3PM

Present: Chairman Walter Liff, Selectman David McGuckin, Supr. Steve Tabbutt
Members: John Ireland, Normand Houle
Absent Members: Walter Glidden
Alternate Members: Chet Fessenden, Reg Whitehouse
Secretary Pamela Cullen, Accountant Debra Knowles

Chairman Liff called the meeting to order at 3pm.

1. Chairman Liff read the bills to the Commission for their approval. The Commission discussed the bills that were incurred by the sewer break for 161 Portsmouth Avenue. The bill from Chris-Co for \$1526.50 for paving of Route 1B will be submitted to Jane Finn for payment. The total bill for her sewer break will be over \$4K. Also discussed was payment for paving by Crisco for water break in 2013. Normand Houle made a motion to approve checks as written. John Ireland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. John Ireland Made a motion to approve April 13, 2016 minutes as amended. Chet Fessenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Old business:

Chairman Liff stated that there was no old business to discuss.

4. New business:

a. Hydrants - Steve Tabbutt reported that he will be flushing approximately 30 hydrants on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 in the town from 8am to 4pm. Residents will be notified of the flushing. The City of Portsmouth will also be notified that the town will be flushing hydrants.

b. Funds - Accountant Knowles reported as of April 30, 2016 there was \$133,830.97 in the water checking account and \$350,456.56 in the sewer checking account. There were no funds transferred to the trust funds. Normand Houle questioned the "Received Funds" in the Trust Fund Report in the 2015 annual town report. Knowles said that those figures were the interest received.

c. Portsmouth water rates – Selectman McGuckin received a letter from city of Portsmouth Attorney Suzanne Woodland via Attorney Rob Ciandella to inform New Castle of the water rate increase. The water rate will go from 81cents to \$3.35 per unit. McGuckin said that the town's reply to Portsmouth is to ask that they do the increase in steps rather than a spiked rate. The town asked that the step increase happen either over a three year period with an 85 cent per unit per year or a \$1.27 per unit increase for two years. This rate is a 300 percent increase. John Ireland asked if the rate increase should go before the PUC. Portsmouth doesn't have to go before the PUC. Ireland then asked if the town could go to the PUC. He also added that the town still doesn't have a sewer contract with the city of Portsmouth.

McGuckin discussed the pros and cons of questioning the water and sewer rates with Portsmouth, and would leave that to Attorney Ciandella. John Ireland asked when the town looks into the water issues, would it be prudent to look at the sewer fee for a better rate. McGuckin said that the town is still waiting to hear back from Portsmouth via the town's attorney if they will accept either the two or three step rate increase.

Chairman Liff asked for any other business to come before the commission. There being no further business, Liff asked for a motion to adjourn. John Ireland made a motion to adjourn. Normand Houle seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.