

APPROVED

Water & Sewer Commission Minutes Wednesday, May 9, 2018- 3:00 PM

Members Present: Walter Liff, Chair, John Ireland, Normand Houle, Richard White, Carl Roediger, (Alt), Clint Springer (Alt), Steve Tabbutt, Ben Jankowski, Selectman Damon Frampton, Ex-Officio.

Also in attendance: Christiane McAllister, Town Accountant, Bette Jane Riordan, Recording Secretary, Andy Schulte.

1. Review, Approve, and Sign Checks.

The Commission reviewed the checks as presented and as outlined in the Town Accountant's sheet. The \$2268.00 check payable to the City of Portsmouth was questioned as to length of time billed for water testing. Steve Tabbutt stated it covered the cost of ½ year of sampling.

Both Steve Tabbutt and Ben Jankowski reported that the Quarterdeck station was completed and Steamboat is still being worked on. Norm Houle asked about the monitoring process. Ben replied that the alarm which notifies DPW (SCADA System) can only be Emailed at the present time. It needs to be hardwired into a phone line. The box needs to be at DPW. He stated they are working on a telephone solution. Richard White questioned this as his recollection that the system was supposed to dial DPW cell phone(s). He stated it was important to invest in getting smart phones for DPW as SCADA has to be tied into a phone to work as promised. Discussion ensued about the failed attempts by DPW to get a hard wire installed. Mr. White believes Comcast could resolve the problem and urged Steve and Ben to pursue this option. Steve explained the financial costs, and the difficulty in getting the telephone company to do the necessary work. Norm Houle suggested having SCADA installed at Town Hall. Steve said it was too late. Northeast has already installed it at DPW. Mr. White suggested the DPW do the digging required which should only take a day, and thereby defray some of the costs. Chair Liff suggested that the discussion was going in circles, and asked how the project could be moved forward.

Norm Houle noted that Fairpoint is now called Consolidated Services. After explaining all the problems with Consolidated Services, Ben Jankowski suggested pursuing the Comcast option, and will be getting a new quote. Mr. White supports this route. Norm Houle agreed with this and asked Ben to also investigate what the current set up is at Chief White's house on the common.

The Commission returned to the matter of check signing and approvals. Norm Houle questioned a payment to Underwood which Chair Liff explained was for engineering oversight of installation of sewer pumps-construction phase. John Ireland made a Motion to accept the checks as written and presented. Richard White seconded, and the Motion carried.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2018.

Norm Houle read his edits and suggested not including as much detail on the checks, and he and Chair Liff clarified Steve Tabbutt's authority to spend up to \$5,000 without prior approval from the Commission. After further discussion, Mr. White made a Motion to Accept the minutes as amended. Clint Springer seconded, and the Motion carried.

3. Bank Balances.- Christianne

Water Account: \$159081.29

Sewer Account: \$328697.15

She noted that water revenue came in at 88% of what was budgeted, and that the Commission is under expenses as projected. All water billing has been completed for the current fiscal year. Mr. White thanked Christianne and noted his approval of having true numbers. He estimated we've incurred an 18% water loss. Norm noted Portsmouth's loss at between 15-17%. Steve Tabbutt discussed Portsmouth and Underwood's listening for leaks and the improvement expected.

Norm Houle stated that Christianne will monitor trends in rate setting.

Mr. White would like to put aside surplus money to assist with any gaps in services required.

Christianne stated that the sewer pump project is not completely finished. The Town has not yet received the loan but is awaiting a required legal opinion needed for the closing to occur. Mr. White thanked Christianne for all her work on this project, and keeping the Commission informed.

4. Old Business.

a. Water and Sewer Ordinance.

Norm Houle distributed copies of the updated revised Water and Sewer Ordinance and will ask Town Administrative Projects Coordinator Ken McDonald to upload on the Town's website. The Commission thanked Norm for his hard work on the ordinance and for producing a final product, which the Select Board approved.

b. Sewer pump update.

Steve reported that SCADA has been installed at Quarterdeck, which is basically done. The area of Steamboat Lane is currently ripped up for installation work. The by-pass is working and will continue to run until that area is finished. River Road is scheduled for June. The current focus is completion of Steamboat Lane.

Steve and Norm discussed the difficulty involved in replacing suction pipes. The by-pass unit is tight and the suction side of the pipes is in rough shape. Epoxy may be needed. There is a high cost to replace the pipe which is rusty. Estimate to replace is \$80,000 to \$110,000. In response to

questions from Norm Houle, Steve stated all three pumps are in fact submersible, but are in dry pits at present. Should a pipe fail in the future he proposed a back up solution.

5. New Business.

a. Budget Narrative: Norm stated he had provided everyone with a budget narrative which should be helpful for the next preparation process.

b. Trial removal of the by-pass valves at Wentworth and Main.

Norm was concerned when he heard this concept mentioned at Town Meeting the prior evening. He asked Selectman Damon Frampton if the City of Portsmouth agreed with that concept, or was this an Underwood proposal? Water testing on the Wentworth side has been proposed. Steve reported that testing has been done on the Portsmouth system by New Castle at the Wentworth and at Sagamore and Jones Ave. It is not pristine perfect water on the Portsmouth/Wentworth side. Norm was not surprised at that fact. With the new pipe installed at Pierce Island, flows have improved. Steve feels with additional flushing, we should seem improvements in the TTHM situation. This may cause an increase in the water bill.

Further discussion included Mr. White talking about the need for a compound meter at the Wentworth Road/Main Street test pit. The Wentworth side needs water. He also reiterated the need for water testing/sampling at the Wentworth meter, where the water enters the New Castle system. Steve also reported on prior testing done by the Town, as well as planned for testing in the future.

Another topic of discussion was the need for Portsmouth to be involved with the June 4th Select Board meeting with Underwood Engineering. Mr. White feels there should be a combined bid package with Portsmouth.

Damon will report back to the Select Board on all of the ideas, concerns and suggestions expressed regarding the Water Project which were discussed by the Commission.

6. Any other business to come before the board: None

7. Adjourn.

_Clint Springer made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Norm Houle. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.