

Sewer Committee

Minutes of meeting January 21, 2015

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BY: Wendy Rawski,
Town Clerk

Present: Steve Beckert, Nancy Shapleigh, Rich Russell, Mike Dupuis, Grant Hirst, Jack Murphy

Absent: Richard Dionne, Jack McDonough

Others: Bob Seeley, Joel Moulton, Dana Lee

Meeting opened 4:21 PM. Camera activated. Grant was asked to vote today.

Minutes of December 17, 2014 were amended and adopted.

Bob Seeley was concerned about taxpayers not on sewer having to pay for any part of sewer and asked if the town was going to reimburse him for the cost of having his septic tank pumped. Mike pointed out that the entire town had voted in 1982 to do the sewer project which- at the time- had been mandated by the EPA.

Dana read some draft language that he and Kate had worked on for a possible modification to the sewer ordinance relating to a waiver of the reserve capacity charge for single family homes. Joel pointed out that such a change may not be necessary because if we count the remaining vacant, developable parcels on existing sewer, we could do the sewer reserve necessary for all those properties, en masse, then those people would not need waivers or even individual reserve allocations.

Dana was asked to determine the number of building lots currently on sewer and do a projection of how much reserve capacity that potential build-out would need; and then to have the Committee consider setting aside sufficient reserve capacity for the eventual build out.

Dana has reviewed a majority of Joel's new O & M manual and returned it to him with comments.

Dana has drafted a letter to Kittery regarding our position that they have violated certain aspects of the IMA, particularly as respects notification to Eliot of their planned changes to sewer infrastructure which will impact Eliot. Steve felt the letter should continue to be held until it contains all of the alleged violations.

Rich Russell, as a sewer customer, is concerned about having to pay for any part of the upcoming sewer modifications in Eliot which represent costs due to additional capacity.

Grant suggested that we need to start enforcing our sewer ordinance as respects private sewer systems which are not yet in compliance. Mike pointed out that the town is/could be held responsible for problems that arise because we failed to enforce our own ordinance. Joel pointed out that the town could face millions in potential fines and penalties.

Joel indicated that he is responsible for inspecting any new private sewer systems and that the Code Enforcement Officer will coordinate with him so that no occupancy permits for new housing on such systems will be issued until the sewer systems meet all aspects of the sewer ordinance.

Grant also pointed out once more that we need to consider raising our \$1.5 million estimate of costs for sewer repairs to include provision for (our 11% share of) costs for Kittery's reconstruction of their pump station 7. It seems highly likely that we will need an increase in our allotted capacity (above 200,000 GPD) at some point in the future; and that if pump station 7 cannot handle it, it would be a bottleneck and would be extremely costly and time-consuming to provide for that increased capacity after the fact.

It was suggested that maybe we need to consider purchasing our additional 200,000 GPD now rather than waiting. Presumably that would force Kittery to make allowance for such increased capacity when it reconstructs pump station 7.

The next meeting will be February 18th at which point we will discuss going back to two meetings a month (first & third Wednesdays).

Meeting adjourned 5:22PM.

Grant Hirst

Recording Secretary