

## SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 7, 2014

Present: Mike Dupuis, Richard Dionne, Nancy Shapleigh, Grant Hirst

Excused: Steve Beckert

Absent: Richard Donhauser, Bill Hankin, Janice Hastings, Jack McDonough, Rich Russell

Also present: Jack Murphy, Joel Moulton; and Joe Ansara, Curt Rose, Matt Connolley, all representing Sawgrass Meadows Citizens Association and invited to attend by Mike Dupuis.

Meeting opened 4:18 PM by Mike Dupuis. Mike designated Grant Hirst (alt) and himself as voting members. Camera activated.

Minutes of April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> read and approved, with minor modifications.

I gave a copy of the new sewer ordinance to Joe Ansara. Joe indicated an interest in serving on the Sewer Committee and he was told to submit his application through Barb Thain.

Joe went through his copies a numerous emails he had going back to November of 2011 at which time he came away with the understanding from Dan Blanchette that the question of acceptance of the private sewer system in Sawgrass Meadows would be put to the people. Through further discussion it was pointed out that the Sewer Committee was working on developing the sewer ordinance in that time frame and that the Committee could not and did not give any assurance that the town would accept the private sewer system; and that the neighbors would have to form an association and secure "as-built" plans and provide a back-up generator for their pumping station before any consideration could be given by the town of accepting that system.

Joe says that the group has worked with the Planning Assistant and one or more former Code Enforcement Officers, yet they seem to have made little progress. Joe indicated his group wants to do what we need them to do to comply with the new ordinance and the Committee expressed its interest in helping them to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Subsequently the group did form an association and reportedly gave a copy of the paperwork to Dan Blanchette. It is unclear if that paperwork is in our possession.

Joe indicated he has spoken with Ken Woods at Attar Engineering who did not come up with any "as-built" plans for the system. Russell Sylvester was contacted and he has moved away and claims to have no such paperwork in his possession.

Mike Dupuis will call Attar Engineering tomorrow (May 8) to inquire further into "as-built" plans and will contact Joe with the outcome of that inquiry. Mike was provided with Joe's contact info.

It was pointed out that there are 11 homes in the subdivision, all on the sewer, and a 12<sup>th</sup> person on State Road who is also on the sewer but who has refused to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the sewer. This homeowner is the second owner of the property.

An audit was done of the Sewer fund and it was discovered that there was not sufficient revenue coming in to provide either needed maintenance for the system or replacement of that aging infrastructure and it was this discovery which has led to the rate increases of 2011 and 2014.

It was left with the Sawgrass folks that they needed to submit "as-built" plans, install an automatic start back-up generator, and put in place an annual maintenance contract before they could submit the system for consideration of acceptance by the town.

Joel pointed out that a citizen on Spruce Lane has a failed septic system and has inquired about connecting to sewer. There is also a citizen at 971 Main Street who has been granted an allocation and asked if he could connect at some future point if his septic system failed. There is some question as to who owns the sewer line in Main Street in this area and that is being researched. It may have been put in at the expense of Green Acres.

Green Acres has paid two betterment fees for the old Office Building and the new maintenance building behind it, but because the flow is so minor (would generate perhaps \$2 a quarter), a flow charge has been waived for these connections.

The town owns eight E1 pump installations- located as follows: 2 on Mitra Lane, 3 on Alden, 1 on Kings Highway South, and 2 on maple. These pump installations will be inspected in the near future and alarms may have to be modified and property owners (including new ones when the affected properties are sold) educated on system protocols- who to call when the systems go into alarm, etc.

An "irrigation meter policy" letter is being developed to be sent to those people who wish to apply for sewer charge abatements based on water use which does not go into the sewer. Such abatements will only be considered if that non-sewer use is metered by Kittery Water.

SAD35 is not expecting to be connected to sewer and plans to go ahead with its plan to save \$350,000 in anticipation of needing to replace its overboard discharge system and to secure a renewal of its operating permit in 2018.

Proposed I&I work in the area of Kings Hwy North- which work will be posed to the Selectmen May 8<sup>th</sup>- has the prospect of curtailing up to 70,000 GPD (of leakage into the sewer system)- a huge saving.

It was decided to meet only once a month for the foreseeable future. Additional meetings can be called based on need. **Next meeting June 18, 2014.**

Meeting adjourned 5:45PM.

Grant Hirst

Recording Secretary