

Sewer Committee meeting July 15, 2015

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2015
BY: Wendy Rawski,
Town Clerk

Present: Mike Dupuis, Jack McDonough, Richard Dionne, Grant Hirst

Absent: Rich Russell, Steve Beckert (excused), Nancy Shapleigh (medical), Joel Moulton (vacation)

Others: Bob Pomerleau - *Jack Murphy.*

Meeting opened 4:18 PM, camera activated

(Just prior to the start of the meeting, Wendy swore in both Grant Hirst and Jack McDonough for three-year terms as regular members).

Minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2015 were approved with minor corrections.

There has been no response back from either Bill Hankin or Janice Hastings if they wish to continue on the Committee; and the alternate slot formerly occupied by Grant Hirst is now open. Mike will make one more attempt to contact Bill and Janice prior to the Committee taking action to declare the positions as open.

Sewer capacity allocations have been received from Messers Randolph (an existing structure, not a home) and Brown (an existing dwelling with a failed septic system) on Rte 236- each for 120 gpd- but neither were present and the requests were not sufficiently detailed for us to take action. Action on the requests was tabled.

Another request was received from Nicholas and Allison Brown at 391 Main Street for 120 gpd for a single one-family dwelling at that location. It was voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they approve the request.

There was extensive discussion of the possibility/advisability of setting up a sewer district. Mike will discuss further with Dana and Joel and see about getting one or more people down from the State (DEP, DES?) to discuss the possibility and give us some guidance, pro's and con's, etc. Richard Dionne talked about his experience as an officer of the South Berwick Sewer District. Bob Pomerleau indicated that there were a great number of sewer districts in Maine and that it was pretty obvious that there were advantages to doing so.

The possibility was discussed that perhaps such a presentation(s) could be made at a Board of Selectmen workshop, perhaps with some/all of the Sewer Committee present.

Mike brought up the problems we have with associations and private sewer systems (Sawgrass Meadows, Hidden Meadows, Blueberry, Pickering, others?) where the systems are not in compliance with the sewer ordinance. In the event of a spill or overflow, what is the liability? It seems very unlikely that any of the associations carry proper (or any) insurance, especially environmental impairment coverage.

It would seem that the liability would first go to the association, and/or to the individual homeowners; but in the absence of insurance, would the town become involved? What is the scope and amount of the town's environmental impairment coverage? Does our limit need to be increased? Would it cover us in the event of spill- for example, an overflow at Sawgrass Meadows which went into the creek. The sewer system belongs to the town, but any private system which has not been accepted by the town would not belong to the town.

What is our liability for not enforcing our own sewer ordinance? How can we enforce the ordinance if we have so little apparent recourse? Can we lien the individual members of the associations?

Did we get a legal opinion on any of this? If not, should we?

This is something which should be explored with MMA.

Grant was assigned the task of drafting a message for the soon-to-be mailed sewer bills (unless someone else has something already drafted). Wendy needs the message in a day or two.

Next meeting August 5, 2015.

Meeting adjourned 5:38PM.

Grant Hirst

Michael Dupuis, - CHAIRPERSON
08-05-15 -
Michael Dupuis