

Sewer Committee meeting October 15, 2014

Present: Mike Dupuis, Nancy Shapleigh, Steve Beckert, Richard Russell, Richard Dionne, Jack McDonough, Grant Hirst.

Others: Jack Murphy, Tyler Spinney, Russell Sylvester (Cole Brown Estates), Cole Melindy (Underwood Engineers), Bob Pomerleau, Joel Moulton

Meeting opened by Chair Dupuis at 4:14 PM. Video streaming activated.

There were no minutes from the last meeting so the recording secretary will create them from the video stream of that meeting.

Grant was appointed a voting member for this meeting.

Russ Sylvester came in to speak on behalf of himself and his residents on the matter of an abatement for that part of the sewer bill which is represented by the (water consumed by) lawn sprinkler usage of the 44 occupants of Cole Brown. Clearly that water does not end up in the sewer.

Tyler Spinney brought in his sewer bills for the year and I was also shown Albert Edson's third quarter sewer bill for 19 Kenley Lane showing a consumption of 10,300 CF for \$485.13, plus \$79.30 for base and reserve, totaling \$564.43. It was pointed out sewer bills have gone up significantly of late, and the 3rd quarter is particularly high due to heavy lawn-watering.

It initially appears that Kittery Water is not willing to install an (economical) separate water meter for each customer to isolate the water sprinkler flow so it is not charged for in the sewer bill. Joel will be meeting with KW next week to discuss this.

A Cole Brown community-wide isolation of the lawn sprinkler water supply line would cost Russ in the area of \$32,000 and so that is not thought to be an acceptable solution.

Cole Brown is served by an 8" main off the 12" main in Bolt Hill Road. Each of the 44 residences is fed from the 8" main by a 1" copper line with no provision for isolating lawn sprinkler consumption. The installation of separate meters would seem to be a seasonal issue (remove in the fall, re-install in the spring) because they would not be in a pit, and this would be expensive.

There was discussion of the recently passed sewer ordinance and while that ordinance was not available to us, we were unable to recall if there is a mechanism in the ordinance for exceptions to the abatement process which could be applied to the Cole Brown situation. This will be researched, discussed at the November 19th meeting and a decision reached at the December 17th meeting on what recommendation, if any, to make to the Selectmen for a possible revision to the sewer ordinance.

Tyler asked what he should do about the \$300+ bill he has for the 3rd quarter and he was advised to speak with the Town manager on it. He advised that he had already done so. There was no answer to his question and so the inference was that he had little choice but to pay the bill.

Minutes October 15, 2014- con't.

Keith Pratt's letter of September 24th on the matter of sewer allocations was discussed and it was determined that his findings would be presented to the Selectmen (motion Rich Russell, second Dick Dionne- passed with Grant abstaining).

It was also determined that it would be Joel's responsibility to identify those who had reserved but unused capacity, and to get them billed for that unused capacity.

Cole Melindy gave an extended presentation of Underwood's work to date on an analysis of flow trends over seven years. The trend is decidedly and significantly down. He explained about all the I&I work that had been done to date and how Joel was very aggressive on repairs as soon as leaks were found. It was pointed out that such repairs have to be a continuous and on-going effort. Joel is working on an Operation and Maintenance Plan which should be complete by the end of the year.

It was mentioned that Eliot and Kittery are now discussing how the update of Pump Station 7 should be done and whether or not that upgrade should include an allowance for Eliot's future need for additional capacity. That capacity could be needed for any new sewer which is installed and particularly for what some envision will be demanded by EPA at some point.

Fortunately the initial design work for PS7 has already been done to include provision for Eliot's future needs but that design was abandoned when it became clear to Kittery that Eliot lost three votes for the sewer expansion. Kittery is now working on a design which does not include Eliot's future need and this will be discussed in the near future between the two town managers.

Nancy Graham has asked for two, 120 GPD sewer allocations, for properties she owns at 195 Pleasant Street, and these allocations were granted by unanimous consent.

The Sawgrass issue was discussed briefly and our legal people have advised that we do not own any part of the Sawgrass sewer system. If Sawgrass wants the town to take over the sewer system, they will have to make application for that, showing proof that they have met all aspects of the sewer ordinance.

Next meeting November 19, 2014.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.

Grant Hirst

Recording Secretary