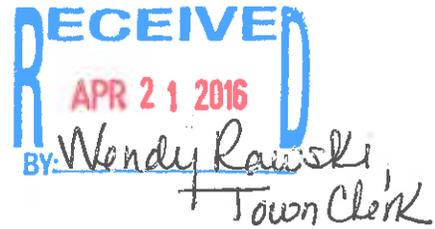


Sewer Committee Workshop Dec ember 16, 2015



Attending: Mike Dupuis, Steve Beckert, Grant Hirst, Richard Dionne, Nancy Shapleigh, Jack McDonough, Rich Russell

Others: Dana Lee, Jack Murphy, Bob Pomerleau, Joel Moulton, Michael Bolduc, District Manager, Kennebunk Sewer District, Mark Allenwood, Vice Chair, Kennebunk Sewer District.

Meeting opened at 4:23PM. Camera was activated.

Minutes of the meeting of December 2nd were approved as written

Rich Russell introduced Michael Bolduc and Mark Allenwood who he (Rich) had invited to our meeting to talk to us about sewer districts.

The Kennebunk Sewer District has been in place since the 1950's and so neither of them had been around at its formation. They have roughly 3200 customers, about 40 miles of sewer pipe and a budget of around \$2.3 million. They have their own waste water treatment plant with an overall staff of 11.

They suggested that formation of such a district had to go through the legislature and then to a referendum of the people of the proposed district. They pointed out that with a district, the customers pretty well knew what they needed and that the passing of a district budget or bond might be easier than if an entire town had to vote on the question- where only some of the town had the benefit of the sewer.

They pointed out that the KSD had a substantial (10-20 year) capital reserve and that again, the sewer users (through the Board of Trustees) had a vested interest in making sure there was always sufficient money to do necessary upgrades/replacements. They also mentioned that the capital reserve fund could be rolled over from year to year.

The legal transfer of town sewer assets to a sewer district, and the attendant issues of setting up the district were thought to be quite costly. The district would need its own charter.

Once the new district was set up, then all liabilities of running it would go to the district and the town would be out from under such liabilities.

They mentioned that they knew of no federal grants that a sewer district would be eligible for that the town would not also be eligible for, and so that advantage-long thought by some of us to be a major advantage of having a sewer district-may not to be so. They did mention that federal funds for sewer districts may have pretty well dried up.

The KSD representatives then left, promising to answer any future questions we had. They were very helpful and many thanks to Rich Russell for arranging for them to be here.

Bob Pomerleau mentioned that he had researched the MRSA's and could find no reference to sewer districts having to be formed by the legislature; and that it appeared it could be as simple as having the Board of Selectmen make application to the Department of Environmental Protection for permission to form a district. Alternatively, such a district might be formed by petition.

Once permission was granted, there would be a vote of the people and if passed, the Board of Selectmen would appoint a five member Board of Trustees for the new sewer district, probably on a schedule of 2, 2 and 1. After three years had passed, the Board of Trustees from that point forward would elect their own trustees.

It appears the Board of Selectmen, three members of which were present at this meeting, will be considering where to go from here.

Thanks to Nancy Shapleigh for bringing in pies, ice cream and cheese.

Next meeting January 6, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Grant Hirst

Recording Secretary

Michael Dupuis, CHAIRPERSON
Michael Dupuis
04-20-16