

*Jack M. A. Vice Chair*

Sewer Committee meeting July 20, 2016

RECEIVED  
AUG 19 2016  
BY: *Nancy Kowski,*  
*Town Clerk*

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

Absent: Jack McDonough

Also present: Jim Tessier, Jack Murphy, Joel Moulton, Kevin McCoolle, Bobbie Place (came in 4:56). Meeting opened 4:16 PM.

*Grant Hirst*  
*accepted*

The same Committee officers as now exist were re-elected for the coming term. Steve Beckert made the motion and it was unanimous- Mike Dupuis, Chair, Jack McDonough Vice Chair, and Grant Hirst Recording Secretary.

Minutes of November 18, 2015, April 20, 2016 and June 15, 2016 were read aloud and accepted. Steve Beckert made one correction to the minutes of June 15, 2016 . Agendas for regularly scheduled committee meetings are due at town hall at least three (3) days before the scheduled meetings. It is the agendas for special meetings which are due seven (7) days prior to the meeting- all per the new Charter.

Dana also took minutes at the meeting of June 15 but those minutes were not available tonight. They will have to be voted on at our next meeting.

Dana is putting out a template for all committees to use as a guide for preparing new by-laws. A mission statement for the Sewer Committee may exist already but if not, we'll have to create one. Mike will speak with Dana about these two issues.

Nancy wants to protest the treatment by two members of the Select-Board of former Sewer Committee Richard Dionne, who was not re-

appointed to the Committee by the Select-board at their latest meeting, on the basis of Dionne's comment at a past Sewer Committee meeting to the effect that he did not want any sewer rate increases. Nancy went on to say that he was treated badly and not given an opportunity to speak at the last Select-Board meeting. She also felt his First Amendment rights ~~may have been~~ violated.

Steve suggested that the vote of the Select-Board not to reappoint Dionne may technically be null and void inasmuch as it was a tie vote (2-2). There may be no opportunity to bring the matter up for reconsideration because there was no prevailing side. It was felt that the entire thing was handled very poorly by the Select-Board. Mike will talk to both Dana and Dionne on this. Dionne may be asked to re-apply to the Committee.

Regardless of the above, we do ask that the Town Manager send Dionne a letter of thanks for his past service to the Committee and that his valuable input will be missed.

Rich Russell brought Kevin McCool to the meeting. Kevin has expressed an interest in joining the Committee and he will forward his application to Melissa. Kevin lives on Pleasant Street and is a sewer user.

Mike reported that the sewer pump installation for the construction project at 379 Bolt Hill Road is well on its way to completion by Sturgeon Creek, and that it will be the first new construction project under the new sewer ordinance; and that the installation will comply with that ordinance. Three to four units have already been constructed.

The Modernist Pantry project is also underway and it also will come under the new ordinance.

Rich provided the Committee with a list of average sewer rates for many towns in York County, which list was in reply to Bob Pomerleau's assertion that Eliot has some of the lowest average sewer rates. Rich did not take into account the several E-1 pumps the town owns and which pump sewage up from private residential properties along the river.

Nancy feels that the 644 sewer customers need to get out and vote so as to make their feelings known. Their votes could have made a big difference on prior warrant articles.

The entire town would be charged any fines assessed against us by federal or State authorities which arise out of any sewage spill but especially one which spills into the wetlands or the Piscataqua River.

It was not clear how such a fine, being unappropriated money, would be funded but one option might be by a special assessment by the town.

Rich Russell agrees we need to do the repairs but he feels that by using submersible pumps, we would not have to reconstruct two sewer pump stations. He will be developing rough pricing for such a project. Joel has issues with submersible pumps in this application but Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineering will be discussing that in the near future, probably when he submits costs associated with the next stage of the engineering portion of the job.

Next meeting August 17, 2016 at 4:15 in the conference room.

Grant Hirst

Recording Secretary



6. To what extent do you have trouble getting new or keeping existing members? \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

7. To what extent does committee "paperwork" such as posting of agendas, writing minutes, etc. pose a difficult issue for your group \_\_\_\_\_

8. To what extent do you feel more support is needed from other Staff / Town Officials? \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

9. To what extent is your group's work hampered by lack of resources or people? \_\_\_\_\_

**Open Comments / Suggestions Section:**