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Town Clerk

SEWER COMMITTEE 8-21-13 MINUTES

Present: Grant Hirst, Mike Dupuis, Nancy Shapleigh, Janice Hastings, Steve Beckert, Jack McDonough, Jack Murphy, BOS liaison, Steve Sanborn, member of the public Absent: Richard Dionne, Bill Hankin, Joel Moulton, Rich Russell, Richard Donhauser

Meeting opening 4:17 PM. Quorum declared with Hirst a voting alternate

Minutes of Meeting of August 7th (written by Steve Beckert) read and approved with minor corrections.

Steve Sanborn was recognized to speak on his application for 2000 gpd of sewer capacity for a project for which he has a long-term building permit (perhaps 7 years since date of issue). Steve has a buyer for the land, which buyer will need 2000 gpd in sewer capacity, but Steve was told that there is a moratorium in place on any new capacity, even for properties for which a building permit was in place. He was told that we are, however, trying to recover a 30,000 allocation to the Cullen property at Bolt Hill Road and 236, which project is reportedly defunct. The decision has been made by the BOS to send him a letter, indicating it is our intention to withdraw the allocation. We do not believe the letter has yet been sent.

Steve mentioned he had approached Fred (Forsley) to ask if Fred would surrender some of his reserved capacity but Fred declined. It was determined that Steve could not approach Kittery directly for the needed capacity because of the new IMA.

It was clear that the sentiment on the committee was that we wanted to do everything we could do to accommodate Steve Sanborn with the sale of the property, but we had to do it the right way. This project is proposed as a footprint of 8000 SF with no specified number of stories, and it would have substantial equipment and as many as 100 employees. He was not at liberty to identify the prospective buyer. It was determined that Steve's property is a TIF property within the TIF District.

Nancy moved to ask the BOS to temporarily lift the moratorium, and then restore it, so as to accommodate Steve's request (along with three residential requests which have backed up since the moratorium was imposed). Jack McDonough seconded. Grant pointed out that to do this would be a "slippery slope" and Steve Beckert pointed out it would set a bad precedent. There was much discussion and Nancy then withdrew her motion and Jack withdrew his second.

We have made considerable progress in addressing I&I and we decided by unanimous consent to see if we could find the needed additional capacity Steve needed (2000 gpd), plus 120 gpd for each of three residential requests, from savings achieved by remediation of leaks in the system. It was decided to find out from Joel if we could justify the granting of this 2360 gpd additional capacity based on those reductions in I&I.

The question was raised if the letter to Cullen regarding the withdrawal of the 30,000 gpd had been sent and it was decided that it probably had not yet gone out. It was felt that the withdrawal of that capacity could not happen until the letter had gone out and the proscribed time- to be imposed by the letter- had run out.

It was also asked how Joel is doing on the I&I projects and how much of our capital reserves we have spent, pointing out that judicious use of (some of) that money could have a pretty decent return on investment; and that Eastern Pipe had identified a couple major leaks, one of which was estimated to be 40-50 gpm.

Nancy will contact Bill Hankin to see if he can attend a rate Subcommittee meeting in the near future. Once that can be determined, Grant will call a meeting of that subcommittee for the purpose of reviewing the latest sewer bill and the Underwood rate study. A second meeting would have to be called once the October bill is available.

We discussed the new sewer ordinance that Kate has been working on. At the previous meeting she said it would be ready for the November ballot but we are under time constraints that Wendy mentioned to us. Mike will talk with Kate on that tomorrow and coordinate with Wendy on timing for such items as public hearing(s), dates for BOS meetings, issue of absentee ballots and other time frames. Time will be of the essence if we are to get the new ordinance on the ballot for November.

Meeting adjourned 5:22 PM. Next meeting 9-4-13.

Grant Hirst

Michael Dupuis; chairperson.
09-04-13
Michael Dupuis.