

SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES

September 14, 2005 Minutes

Mrs. Briggs - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance were: Paul Nordstrom, Linda-Jean Briggs, Michael Connolly. Also in attendance were: Manny Alvarez and Patricia Paul, Secretary. Not in attendance was Thomas McGee, III.

Mrs. Briggs – Request to hear the report from the Superintendant first and move it up on the agenda. There were no objections.

1. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDANT –

Mr. Alvarez stated that there were two houses that were tied into the system. Mr. Russo was connected by gravity and the property on Highview was also connected. Also, Mr. Alvarez met with the Finance Director, the Sewer Secretary and the City of Woonsocket Billing Director concerning billing issues. Woonsocket also informed them that Woonsocket is doing some upgrades for the telemetering to be sent by radio. They signed a contract for over \$47,000.00 to do the upgrades at the two metering stations and also at the treatment plant.

Now they will be able to receive the flows through radio signal right

to the plant. He also stated that there will be an official letter coming in the mail stating the contract, the language and the price.

Mr. Alvarez also supplied a letter from Geremia & Associates in the packets. A call was received from Geremia asking if he had inspected a sewer job or sewer connections at the Rock Cliff Farms site recently and Mr. Alvarez's response was no and no one had called in. He had informed Mr. Alvarez that they had done some sewer work, buried it and no one had inspected it. So Mr. Hencler sent out the letter in the packages immediately and notified them that they need to dig up the sewer lines. And if it happens again, the letter stated that they would not be allowed to continue any further work on this project.

Mrs. Briggs – Expressed that she attended a five-hour town council meeting Monday evening and that the Sewer Commission was placed at the very end of the agenda and the agenda was never finished. At the meeting a suggestion to purchase a used bucket truck was mentioned to remove some dead trees. At that point, Mrs. Briggs spoke on behalf of the Sewer Commission that for two years the Commission has requested a muffin monster be put on the capital budget and be purchased and it is an important piece of equipment and still have not received it and feel that that should take precedent over a bucket truck. The Council agreed that a muffin monster should have been purchased this year but one wasn't purchased. Mrs. Briggs wanted to inform Commission members that she is still

working on it.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Briggs – Approval of August 10, 2005 minutes? Are there any corrections, additions, deletions?

MOTION made by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. Connolly and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve August 10, 2005 minutes.

Mrs. Briggs – The aye's have it. Motion carried 3-0 on an aye vote.

Mrs. Briggs – Requested that Greene Street and the Waterford District areas be placed on September's agenda in the event that if any residents had come before the Commission. No residents were present.

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3. GREENE STREET – No residents were present.

4. WATERFORD DISTRICT – No residents were present.

5. FACILITIES PLAN

Mrs. Briggs – Expressed that the three issues, Greene Street, Waterford District and the facilities plan was scheduled to be heard at

the last Town Council meeting but they were not addressed. They will be addressed and reheard at the next Town Council meeting schedule for Monday, September 19th 2005.

6. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Briggs – Referred to a copy of a letter that was sent to the Town Council for the Commissions recommendation on Laurelwood abatement of assessment for \$208,257.01. It was approved 4-1. Mrs. Briggs wants to find out what the objections were to the recommendation, so going forward the Commission has a better understanding of what it is this particular Town Council is looking for. One Council member did object and gave no explanation.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Connolly asked Mr. Alvarez if there was any discussion about getting him a helper?

Mr. Alvarez – Response was no. They are sending one person 15 hours a week to pick up some slack. He stated that he is unable to start any projects since that person is working only part-time.

Mrs. Briggs suggested that maybe it would be a good idea to bring the Commissions concerns forward to the Council for the health and safety issues that Mr. Alvarez faces on a daily basis and what our infrastructure faces.

MOTION made by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. Connolly requesting to draft and send a letter to the Council regarding the Commissions concerns about the Sewer Department manning situation.

Mrs. Briggs – The aye’s have it. Motion carried 3-0 on an aye vote.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Briggs – Stated that she has yet to hear from anyone from Dowling Village. The Town of North Smithfield has the infrastructure in front of that development. It is atleast this Commissions expectation that sewers will be served in the Dowling Village development out of the Town of North Smithfield. At the last meeting Mrs. Briggs had mentioned it to the Council and wanted to know that as a Commission if it should be put in writing. The ordinance dictates that if any development within the town and boundaries must come before the Sewer Commission. She has a concern that she doesn’t want something to end up similar to Laurelwood where the Planning Board is actually dicatating how sewers will be served in this particular development.

Mr. Alvarez – Stated that during the Council meeting Liz Development was on the agenda reduction of the bond and Mr. Alvarez brought forward to the Council that Mr. Fernando Tavares had contacted him a few weeks ago informing him that there was a clogged manhole. The dates were back in April and on three separate

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occasions there was a backup out there. The first one, Geremia was inspecting some sewers and found a blockage and it appeared that it was debris from their construction site. That was cleaned up. A second time

when Mr. Tavares had called again and said there was a backup and was informed by his supervisor. Mr. Alvarez went out there a second time and found that when the wall was constructed, the manhole was knocked off and as the line was cleared and jetted the water and able to see what was in there. What was found was stone, a mortar and it was cleaned out as much as they could and Mr. Alvarez had to go in there physically to remove the rest of the debris. Mr. Tavares had called me that evening and informed him that this was caused because whoever was doing the work knocked off the manhole. Another blockage was experienced again at the flume due to getting high flows. They found out that the flume was clogged with rocks and all construction debris again. Mr. Alvarez was unable to contact Mr. Tavares on his cell number due to it not being the correct cell number. He informed the engineer and stated he would take it from there and he would contact Mr. Tavares and explain the situation and correct the problem. Woonsocket flushed the line again and Mr. Tavares did not return the call. Mr. Tavares stated that the bill will be forwarded to him from the last flushing and the one before that one and that they restored that manhole to its original condition. That is

the reason why the Council did not approve the release of the bond was because until they the sewer is restored.

Mrs. Briggs – Stated that a developer has always petitioned the Sewer Commission prior to any action being taken before the Town Council. And she doesn't believe that it was done this past time.

Mr. Alvarez – He has called his office and spoke to the Director and planning and spoke to the Administrator.

Mrs. Briggs – The Council directed Mr. Alvarez to bill or any of that work that was incurred to correct that particular situation that the town absorbed.

Mr. Alvarez – Has not heard from Mr. Tavares but when he does call Mr. Alvarez will inform him that he must come before the Sewer Commission.

Mrs. Briggs – Suggested to write a letter and addressed to the Planning Board with concern over the lack of communication that the Commission has had with the developers of Dowling Village. Mrs. Briggs also stated that the Sewer Commission isn't the cause for holding up any progress in the Town of North Smithfield. The Town Council will be copied along with the Sewer Commission, Town Administrator and Mr. Alvarez.

9. ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Nordstrom and voted unanimously on an aye 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**Mrs. Briggs – The aye’s have it. Motion carried 3-0 on an aye vote.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted By,

Patricia A. Paul

Sewer Commission Secretary