

SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES

November 8, 2006

Mr. Connolly - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 7:08 pm.

Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance was: Mr. Tikoian, Mr. McGee, Mr. Nordstrom, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Alvarez and Mrs. Patricia Paul, Secretary. Not present was Mrs. Briggs.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Connolly -Approval of Sewer Commission for September 13 and October 11 2006 minutes.

MOTION made by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Tikoian and voted unanimously on an aye vote 4-0 to accept and approve the September 13th minutes. Mr. Nordstrom did not vote because he wasn't present at the meeting.

MOTION made by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an aye vote 3-0 to accept and approve the October 11th minutes. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Tikoian was not present at the meeting.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Alvarez stated that for the month of October he had a sewer connection at 10 Glen Avenue and connected on Merrimac. Giguere and Marchand did the work.

At Branch River there were a couple of generators serviced and the oil changed and a fuel filter. There was one battery that while it was being tested, the battery had to be replaced because it had died.

Also, on 149 Elizabeth Avenue a sewer line was connected and he witnessed it.

A vendor performed a demonstration on a sewer line cleaning a jetter machine.

Mr. Connolly asked who the name of the vendor was?

Mr. Alvarez response was that it was with Sewer Equipment of America from Connecticut.

3. KEITH DULUDE-10 Glen Avenue - Abatement

Mr. Dulude is requesting a credit to help offset his expenses for connecting to town sewer located at 10 Glen Avenue. It was for the main bill from Giguere & Marchand in the amount of \$28,000. He stated that he has owned the property over three years and have been getting pumped every month for the past three years. The bill he

received from the town was \$26,000 and is requesting a credit to help offset the amount of \$28,000 to offset the connection expenses.

Mr. Connolly asked what he is basing his request on regarding the credit?

Mr. Dulude stated that in terms of benefits to the town and his neighbors, he was told that as a town resident he could request a credit to help offset the expenses and also show it would be helping out his neighbors for the town. With a failed system, it would overflow the next property over into the woods. The previous owner had one major episode when the system backed up into the basement apartment because he had not been able to rent it in three years because of the fear of it. There was six inches of sewage in the basement backed up in that unit. To prevent that from happening it was best to connect the sewer.

Mr. Connolly stated that as he read from the regulations is for it to provide service to the neighbors would be as if he would be putting in a line and they were allowed to tie into it. That would be the benefit to the town. As far as preventing overflows, Mr. Dulude has a responsibility as the property owner to do that anyway.

MOTION by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Nordstrom to grant the credit for discussion.

Mr. Connolly doesn't see a basis to grant the credit. He stated that the extra benefit to the town would be if he relieved the town of the sewer obligation.

MOTION by Mr. Connolly, seconded by all and voted unanimously on an nay vote 4-0 to grant the credit abatement located at 10 Glenn Avenue.

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Mr. Connolly explained to Mr. Dulude that it would have to be a town infrastructure to receive a credit. But what Mr. Dulude is doing is making a connection to an existing line.

4. ROBIN EMIN-282 Quaker Hwy. – 2 Lot Sub-Division

Mr. Connolly stated that there was no one present. Members reviewed the plans and feels that it should be referred to the Sewer Superintendence Mr. Alvarez. They are looking for written confirmation and whether service is available. Mr. Connolly stated that yes it is available and because it is available that yes it is required. He also stated that Mr. Nordstrom made an excellent observation that since there is an existing sewer line there that there is no action by the sewer commission required. If a house is placed near an existing sewer line, by ordinance they must connect. Mr. Connolly stated that there is no action required except for a referral.

5. FACILITY PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Nordstrom feels that they should not take any action at this time due to a new council will be coming in and Linda-Jean is not present.

Mr. Connolly asked for anyone who would like to make any comments.

Alison Pierce resides at 65 Great Road. She wanted to express her concern for the union village section and her ongoing saga regarding for the estimate to connect to the sewer. The cost is approximately \$50,000. They have looked at several systems and the estimated cost to put in a advantax system which is a mini sewer treatment plan on their property. The estimated cost between the engineering cost is \$10,000 and the system itself is between \$25,000 and \$35,000 for the advantax system to be put into place. As she has spoken to Linda-Jean that there maybe plans to put together some sort of town wide proposal to get some relief for people who have these sewer issues throughout the town. They wanted to know where that stood before they proceeded with putting in their own system and possibly connect to Morse Avenue and cross Warren Avenue where there is sewer.

Mr. Connolly explained to Ms. Pierce that the process that the commission is in now is reviewing and approving a new facilities plan for the town. The plan discusses the present condition of the sewer system in the town and gives you an idea of the existing

infrastructure and projects growth and looks at un-sewered portions of the town and describes what has to be done to bring in a new system. Part of the planning of that system is prioritizing the sections to be done. To do them all at once would be very expensive and probably would involve a bond issue. The commission will make technical comments on the book with the commissions consultants and they will forward their concerns and revisions to the Town Council and set the priorities.

Mr. Nordstrom stated that a copy of the document is found in the town's library.

Ms. Pierce asked if the commission knows what priority would the Union Village section would be given?

Mr. Nordstrom stated that it appears that it is a high priority and that it would be one of the first areas to be addressed and that it is assumed that a bond is passed. And also he stated that they would be looking at \$3,000 per year as an estimated cost for an assessment for 20 years.

Mr. Connolly stated that the process is moving forward and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Mr. Nordstrom stated that what the town's engineer is saying is that its the best approach and because there are so many small cluster

areas that are expensive to sewer, that they have made it all one sewer district and they would have one bond that would spread the cost out a little easier.

Mr. Connolly told Ms. Pierce to remain in touch with Linda-Jean Briggs.

MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. McGee on an aye vote 4-0 to table the facility plan update and no action to be taken until the December 13th sewer commission meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Connolly stated that there was no other correspondence received other than Mr. Dulude's correspondence.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Nordstrom has information from Mr. Benoit regarding a credit on Pound Hill Road to extend the sewer system. Mrs. Briggs asked him to review the correspondence received. He had stated that Mr. Benoit had purchased property on the corner of Pound Hill Road and Great Road and there were two units and found out that both of them had failing cesspools and had approached the commission about extending the sewer system. He paid 25% of the connection fee and subdivided the property (for each of the three units and already paid \$3,900). He since sub-divided and have moved into one of the properties on Great Road and the other property

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which is a two unit property he sold and he was asking for a full abatement of \$15,600 (\$5,200 multiplied by the 3 units). He also made an offer to turn over 180 ft. of sewer and two manholes over to the town. Mr. Alvarez inspected it and it has met all of the specifications.

MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. McGee and Mr. Tikoian and voted on an aye vote 4-0 to be credited \$3,900 for the initial payments he made on the three units and subject to verification by the tax collector if he paid the remaining portion on the property he moved into that that be included and not to exceed the amount \$7,800.00 rather than the \$15,600 originally requested.

Mr. Nordstrom feels he should not get credit for the unit he sold which is up to the new homeowner. He had prepared a draft letter for Mrs. Briggs to forward to the town council.

Rules & Regulations

Mr. Connolly stated that the Rules and Regulations for the Sewer Commission need updating going back to 2004 to adopt them for the year 2007.

Mr. Nordstrom made notice on number five of the R & R to remove the word via before e-mail. The secretary will do so and amend the regulations and forward a copy to each member

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MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. McGee and Mr. Tikoian and voted unanimously on an aye vote 4-0 to accept the amended Rules and Regulations for 2007.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

10. ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom and seconded by Mr. Connolly and voted unanimously on an aye 4-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Patricia A. Paul

Sewer Commission Secretary