

# **SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES**

**June 13, 2007**

**Mrs. Briggs - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission was called to order on Wednesday June 13, 2007 at 7:05 pm.**

**Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance was: Mr. McGee, Mr. Nordstrom, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Paul, Secretary. Mrs. Briggs was attending the Budget hearing. Mr. Tikoian was not in attendance.**

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Connolly -Approval of Sewer Commission for May 9, 2007 minutes.**

**MOTION made by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Connolly, Chair and voted unanimously on an aye vote 3-0 to accept and approve the May 9, 2007 minutes.**

## **2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

**Mr. Connolly – Refer to Mr. Alvarez’s May report for work that took place for that month dated June 13, 2007.**

**Mr. Nordstrom asked if the muffin monster is on backorder.**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that it is on back order. He stated that there was a slip up on JWC. It is already three months and it added to the delay and it will take even longer before it arrives at the station. He stated he has been checking on it weekly and they have no idea when the muffin monster will arrive. The delay is with the contractor and he hasn't ordered the material. He is having difficulty with ordering the material in a timely fashion.**

**Mr. Connolly asked if there was any update on the pump station at Silver Pines since the discussion last month?**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that they have come to him and asked him for his help to help resolve the problem and he will assist them with the problem they are having with the controller. He has been monitoring it closely now and recording the failures. He suspects that the problem could be the breakers that are undersized because it keeps tripping and he has told that to the project manager.**

### **3. SUSAN BOWAB-SEWER ASSESSMENT ABATEMENT FEE BACK UP CORRESPONDENCE**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he noted that there was a small problem. Mr. McGee had recused himself and with a recusal there is no quorum.**

**MOTION made by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. Connolly, Chair to table to the July 11th meeting.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting that they would forward their recommendation to the town council and he referred to the letter requesting and looking at the letter requesting an extension the commission has the power to grant it themselves. Under section 8-27 on page 8.4 of the regulations, it says the "Commission may grant extensions to the one year time period as the letter was requested. He suggested that it might be something that he would like to discuss with the solicitor. He was under the impression that everything had to be referred to the Town council and the commission has the power to handle that. In the attorneys letter it is just asking for an extension time to tie in or connect.**

**4. ROBERT LARDER-REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO  
CONEECT-Richard & Miriam Baldwin- 139 Main St.**

**Plat 004-433**

**Mr. Richard Baldwin referred to the letter from Mr. Larder dated April 11th 2007 and the extension of time to tie in. He stated that currently his mother is in a nursing home and the funds are not existent. He stated to tie in would be impossible to do. He is the only one who currently resides there.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that as he reviewed the ordinance, he is required to tie in in one year unless the sewer commission grants an extension and the extension would be granted for a set period of time, when the**

**extension expires then once the extension expires the original provision would fall back into place.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that there should be something to protect the sewer commission and that eventually they would connect and if the house gets sold, for those people buying the house they would have to hook up, there should provide some type of mechanism to be put in place.**

**June 13, 2007**

**Mr. Baldwin referred to page 2 of his letter that if the house was ever sold or at the time of his mothers death and aires was to be sold and the funds were available to do it would be done.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that there has to be some type of legal mechanism set up.**

**Mr. Nordstrom began crafting a motion but no motion was officially made.**

**Mr. Connolly suggested to put a time limit in it with the recommendation of the town solicitor incorporate a mechanism to enforce at the end of the time limit.**

**Mr. McGee agreed that after one year is done and check who did and**

**didn't connect.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that they would extend the time to connect until whatever that date is.**

**Mr. Baldwin expressed that it would go on a long time and depending on his mothers health or if the property is sold.**

**Mr. Baldwin stated that his letter is dated April 2, 2007 for his request to tie in and received it by certified mail.**

**Mr. McGee stated that they were recently given permission on that.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that since he just received the letter, it is from a year of receipt and doesn't need an extension since he has one year. He wouldn't have to ask for an extension until a year from now in April 2008.**

**Mr. Nordstrom agreed with Mr. Connolly that granting an extension wouldn't make any sense.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that there is nothing to extend and the time limit isn't up yet.**

**Mr. Nordstrom will draft a letter to the town solicitor and to the attorney and inform them that come next April of 2008 that as the year**

**approaches the situation doesn't change and would request some type of lien on the property to protect the owner.**

**Mr. Connolly agreed with Mr. Nordstrom that there is no extension to grant because Mr. Baldwin's time hasn't expired.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that the letter stands on its own merit and they can act on the letter**

**Mr. McGee read from the letter stating that "connection shall be made within one year from the date of notice to do so".**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he has until April, 2008.**

**Mr. Nordstrom will draft a letter and act on it at next months meeting.**

## **5. FACILITY PLAN DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Connolly stated that there is nothing they can do until what is decided with the bond issue and depending upon if the community doesn't go forward.**

**Mr. McGee questioned that the way it was written, he asked why did they go by Victory Highway which is over the aquafer and went out to the woods towards Tanglewood and Willovale and keeping going where they are. They went right over Victory Highway. According to what they have, they are both a low impact area and so is Victory**

**Highway.**

**Mr. Connolly referred to the letter they sent for the recommendation, it says Victory Highway.**

**Mr. Nordstrom will send an e-mail to Mrs. Briggs and copy everyone and ask why is Victory Highway left out?**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Connolly no correspondence is received.**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

**Mr. Connolly no correspondence is received.**

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**June 13, 2007**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that he received a third party fax today from Ms. Dorry. Apparently she changed her mind and would like to connect to the sewer system. Her connection is near her well and he wasn't sure if someone else was going to do it for her but there was no cover letter, just a fax with a drawing and generic and very unprofessional. In the fax, it shows her original connection and then it shows the new connection and under it, it says the town to provide a new stub for her property. He wanted to bring that forward that they have**

**intensions that the town will provide a new stub for her property.**

**He also had a discussion with Mr. Labonte (Labonte's Liquor) and with Mr. Nordstrom regarding this individual. He did find a piece of paper from the previous superintendent and it says that Mr. Labonte had gone to the council without the proper paperwork and trying to gain a sewer connection and going through the proper channels and basically trying to get a connection and an agreement with Massachusetts and approval from Woonsocket. In today's meeting, he said he had all of that information. He asked him to provide a set to him so they can have it on file. He went to the sewer commission and town council and has been approved. The administrator has left that task for him to go and dig up records.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he has to go to the Massachusetts and RI legislature and has to get pretreatment ordinances passed allowing Woonsocket pretreatment to enforce in that town and he has to go to Woonsocket City Council. Because it is a commercial property it got to be subject to pretreatment. He is going to need two legislatures and four city/town approvals.**

**Mr. Alvarez explained to him that he does have to go before the sewer commission and through the proper channels in order to be heard and he is trying to convince him that it has already been done. He explained to him that he doesn't have any paperwork.**

**Mr. Nordstrom suggests that he has to speak with the pretreatment coordinator in the City of Woonsocket and there is a lot of work that needs to be done and it can't be granted unless he gets all of the approvals.**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that Mr. Labonte said that his paperwork has already been taken care of.**

**Mr. Alvarez spoke with the Administrator Mr. Lowe and wanted to know about the facility plan since Harkness Road, can the town adjacent to us which is Massachusetts, can they connect their houses to the sewer system?**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that depending on the capacity and there would have to be some type of agreement between Millville and the Woonsocket regional sewer system.**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that the superintendent was looking at it revenue wide and that there is still capacity there.**

**Mr. Connolly's response was that talking about any other community, Massachusetts or Rhode Island tying into the system, whether it would be North Smithfield, Blackstone, Bellingham or Woonsocket that it would affect the municipal agreement/inter-municipal agreement.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that as far as Mrs. Dorry, it would be handled just the same as a regular sewer connection. She would have to connect to the sewer and Mr. Alvarez would have to inspect it.**

**Mr. Alvarez stated that he thinks she is looking for the town to open the road and put a connection for her there.**

**Mr. McGee stated that there is already a connection there.**

**Mr. Alvarez's response was that it was placed in a bad spot.**

**Mr. McGee stated that in her basement there are things in the back that are below grade so she has to come up.**

**Mr. Alvarez had surveyed her property with an engineer a couple of years ago, she can't put a pump in and it wouldn't handle it but it is where her connection is right next to her well and cement driveway and it's a problem.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that he doesn't believe that it is not the towns obligation to provide a stub. You provide stubs to protect your interceptor in putting the sewers in to begin with. After that you can't connect to the stub.**

**June 13, 2007**

**9. ADJOURN**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an aye 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted By,**

**Patricia A. Paul**

**Sewer Commission Secretary**