

## **SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES**

**April 28, 2011            7:40 PM**

**Mr. Connolly - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:40 P.M. at Kendall Dean School.**

**Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance was: Mr. DeCelles, Mr. Nordstrom, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Sheridan. Mr. Carpenter, Superintendent was present. Mr. McGee was not present.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. DeCelles and voted unanimously on a 4-0 aye vote to approve the January 19, 2011 minutes of the sewer commission.**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. DeCelles and voted unanimously on a 4-0 aye vote to approve the February 2, 2011 minutes of the sewer commission.**

### **REVIEW OF F/Y 2011-2012 PROPOSED WATER/SEWER BUDGET –**

**Mr. Carpenter**

**Mr. Connolly asked Mr. Carpenter about the need for cleaning on the interceptor in Woonsocket and involving some marking and clearing right of ways and if there was any money put aside for that in the**

**budget?**

**Mr. Carpenter indicated that \$30k under the O&M section was allotted in there for the line cleaning for the prior year and in this year's fiscal year 2012.**

**Mr. Carpenter stated that Mr. James Geremia was supposed to begin the process on surveying so he could start spending some money for this year. He was trying to get Mr. Geremia to put a program together and told him that he needs to put something together.**

**There was discussion among the members about the allocation of the \$30k funds and what the specs should be.**

**Mr. Carpenter stated that both the sewer department had submitted a budget under the previous Sewer Superintendent and Mr. Kane had submitted his own budget and his name was at the bottom of it and the town council approved that budget that Mr. Kane had submitted. He had put it in 50% water and 50% sewer and the water department can not fund 50% of the budget. Mr. Kane revised it again and then the finance director revised it again with some input from Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Silva, the finance director was told by Mr. Kane to remove certain items out of capital and take it out of something else. He isn't sure of what happened with all of it. He indicated that Mr. Nordstrom stated that some of the capital items were removed, like a generator, line camera and the only item that was kept in there was**

**the truck a total of \$45k.**

**Mr. DeCelles suggested putting a bid out now.**

**Mr. Nordstrom indicated that there should still be a spec first.**

**Mr. Carpenter will contact Mr. James Geremia.**

**Mr. Nordstrom indicated that Mr. Kane had asked him how much it was going to cost; there are lots of factors involved depending on how dirty the pipe is. He found out the best way is to go to every manhole and try and take a measurement and see the deposit and go from that manhole to the next, some do it per linear foot and then they have to worry about disposal. He stated that there are complicating factors a little beyond of what they are capable of doing.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that they might need to make repairs as they go along.**

**MOTION by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. DeCelles and voted unanimously on a 4-0 aye vote to table the 2011/2012 Proposed Water/Sewer Budget to the May 18, 2011 meeting and request the finance director to be present at that meeting.**

**Mr. Connolly mistakenly skipped the second item on the agenda which was the Report from the Superintendent. He asked the**

**commission to move back up on the agenda and return to the Report from Superintendent.**

**April 28, 2011**

#### **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

**Mr. Carpenter discussed the Silver Pines pump station and at the last town council meeting on April 4th, they asked the town if they were ready to take the station over and he presented the bills that he had, and the town administrator asked him to repair the generator because it was an issue and he has submitted the bill to Mr. Richard Kirby, their attorney.**

**Mrs. Sheridan asked what the status was with the grinder pump inspection and has he heard back from F.R. Mahoney.**

**Mr. Carpenter indicated that it is listed in Mr. Wilcox's report and that he takes care of that.**

#### **REPORT FROM SEWER/WATER COORDINATOR - Mr. Wilcox**

**Mr. Wilcox commented that the control boxes of FR Mahoney needs to be addressed immediately and he is still having trouble with communications with F.R. Mahoney to see that it gets done. The warranty and the equalizer diaphragm replacement, having the same response issues/problems with F.R. Mahoney as he referred to the**

correspondence he supplied with the dates and number of e-mails sent to them to try and get them to do something. He spoke to the town administrator and she supposed to provide action. He has a meeting with her this week on these issues. The grinder pump inspections are up to date. Phases 1A and 1B connections are up to date. He put together in advance a Wal-Mart, Dowling Village an edu, sewer assessment and is only an estimate. It is not the final calculations because it always seems to be changing.

Mr. DeCelles asked if anyone had contacted E-1 directly?

Mr. Wilcox replied no, not from his office.

Mr. DeCelles suggest to contact E-1 directly, and let them know what is going on with F.R. Mahoney and he feels that it is completely unacceptable. He feels that E-1 should be notified and let them know what their local rep. is doing.

Mr. Nordstrom wants to clarify that it was F.R. Mahoney who is paying for the diaphragm out of their own pocket and who is the warranty coming from, is it E-1 or F.R. Mahoney?

Mr. Wilcox believes it is F.R. Mahoney.

Mr. DeCelles stated that they are probably the top company out there and feels that E-1 needs to be made aware that F.R. Mahoney who use

**to be fantastic are just not performing.**

**Mr. Nordstrom suggest that it maybe something that should be brought up to Mrs. Hamilton.**

**Mr. Wilcox stated that he will bring it up to Mrs. Hamilton when he meets with her.**

**Mr. Gregory Van-Pelt – 5 Park Avenue**

**Mrs. Paul informed the commission that he had called and that his property is currently in foreclosure. He did not appear.**

**SILVER PINES PUMP STATION – Mr. Joseph DeMayo**

**Mr. DeMayo of 62 Alpine Way, Silver Pines stated he has had over 30 years of wastewater experience as a maintenance superintendent and supervisor for two of the largest plants in the state and that he feels that the pump station at Silver Pines is not being maintained and he knows what the maintenance schedule should be, and that bothers him. He had read some minutes back in January and February of 2010 that the Sewer Commission had recommended to the town council to have the pump station taken over by the Town of North Smithfield. He had approached the town council at their March, 2011 meeting and he explained to the town what he had uncovered and wanted to know why it was taken over.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that it would be between the administration and**

the town council.

Mr. DeMayo stated that he knows that it isn't being maintained, but it is being monitored by Mr. Carpenter. He stated that he knows the importance of a spill and what it means because the developer DAS doesn't care. He is afraid that if the town doesn't take it over, it is going to come back to the Association. He also mentioned that there was a situation at Silver Pines in January or February where they had a lateral backup. He knew something wasn't right when heard gurgling out of his toilet and it wasn't

April 28, 2011

taking it as fast as it should. There was something happening. One of the board members came to him because he had all of the contact information stored in his telephone. There were three manholes on Alpine Way and the middle one was spilling over and stated that there was a back-up. He called Mr. Russell Carpenter and asked if he could help. It was a Sunday and informed him that there was a back-up at the middle manhole and next thing is that it will be backing up into the homes. He said he would like to, but can't. He then called the manager of the Association and told them to get someone up there right away and that it was critical. It was winter, and they couldn't jet the lines with water, they had to roto-rooter. When they went in 150 ft. and it started to trickle and when it let go, Mr. Carpenter called him back and asked if they were alright because there was an alarm going off at the station and that it was reading a high water alarm and 2000

**gallons will be coming his way. As a homeowner and a person who pays a fee, that fee is used for maintaining the lines to the street lines.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he doesn't think that the street Alpine Way and utilities was accepted by the town. He feels that before the pump station, that it is the association's problem.**

**Mr. DeMayo met with the town administrator and they now have trash pickup and he found out that the road was suppose to be built according to town specs and he says that it is a town road. He is asking the sewer commission to recommend that their lines should be maintained and when they have a problem and they need a jet truck and if it isn't done in a certain amount of time, he feels that there are going to be other problems. He is asking the commission to recommend that their lines be cleaned when there is a problem by the town.**

**Mr. Connolly suggested that the first step in that procedure is to go to the town. He should make a proposal to the administration and to the town council and they would come back to the sewer commission.**

**Mr. DeMayo stated that if there are stipulations by DEM about this he will go and see DEM.**

**Mr. Nordstrom's response was that there was no doubt in his mind**

that he is a private system under DEM regulations which means DAS or whomever is responsible for that. He knows that the town has an obligation and they are sitting on their hands and they can come in assess and need to back charge the Association or DAS to recoup the money. And then the town has the right to back charge

Mr. Carpenter indicated that he just did and fixed the station's generator. He has the bills, they know about it, the town council knows about it and their lawyer knows.

Mr. DeMayo will address the town council and Mrs. Hamilton.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**MOTION** by Mr. Nordstrom, seconded by Mr. DeCelles and voted unanimously on a 4-0 aye vote to receive and place on file the following: Items A.) Quarterly Billing/Woonsocket Regional Wastewater F/Y 2010-2011 Dated 2/22/2011 B.) Quarterly Billing/Woonsocket Regional Wastewater F/Y 2010-2011 Dated 3/24/2011 C.) Mr. Francis Zygmunt – Elizabeth Avenue – Plat 3 Lot 128-Appeal of Sewer/Water Tax.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Connolly provided a point of information, that at the last town

**council meeting, that there was discussion on billing issues and appropriation of funds and general issues between the town council, the administration and the commission. There was confusion and tentatively agreed to is that there is going to be a work session tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2011. The town council along with members from the sewer commission will be meeting with the administration and it will be a public announced meeting.**

**Mr. Nordstrom expressed that with all of the knowledge that the sewer commission has, and everyone together and they can take that opportunity and coach the town council and administration of what the purpose is of the ordinance and why you following the ordinance and don't vary from the rules. He noted that what brought this to light was back in the late 1990's, the sewer commission found out that the Forestdale/Birch Hill Sewer district that \$600,000.00 was unfunded because the town council lowered the assessment arbitrarily. They never knew what they expected, the finance director stated that was for future growth and**

**April 28, 2011**

**that would take care of the shortfall. He thanked the work that Diane Wojcik did, they were able to open up sealed town council minutes, and essentially what they did was lower the assessments in that area and Halliwell was paying the huge assessment and they haven't even tied into the system and the taxpayers were paying the discount that the users got because they screamed loud and the town council**

**caved in and they didn't follow the ordinance. He stated that is the perfect reason why and when the town council sets the assessment with their eyes wide open not confused like they did whenever they set the assessment for Phases 1A and 1B. He feels that maybe they can start working towards educating some people and try to start to resolve some of that stuff.**

**Mr. Connolly commented to have uniform application because anytime you deviate, you'll get bit.**

**Mr. Nordstrom commented that you can't change the edu in the middle of a project. He stated that there will not be another sewer project unless those types of things are squared away.**

**Mrs. Sheridan asked about the enterprise fund and allowing the money to be given to the school which was proposed?**

**Mr. Nordstrom responded that he doesn't think they have.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that he discussed this at the last town council meeting. That is what is leading to the workshop they are planning on having with the town council. He had several citations from the ordinance stating that was a bad idea and they council forestalled action on that and they looked for other sources. He didn't even get into it because they were talking about the joint meeting. They are supposed to be looking for other sources and he is going to talk with**

**Mr. Brian Silvia and Mr. McGee about that and if he doesn't receive a clear answer, he will attend the meeting.**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that at the May 2 town council meeting, under item #7 on the town council agenda, Discussion, Vote or Other Action on funding source of Kendall Dean sewer connection was listed.**

**Mr. Connolly believes they were talking about looking at some other unexpended bond money. He'll call them and may attend the meeting. He referred to the ordinance and on the first item under sewer use, states what it is used for. It is used for O&M money only and minor sewer improvements. A connection is neither. The council stated that there was a gray area that they need to look at, for him it is black and white.**

#### **OPEN FORUM PURSUANT TO RIGL SECTION 42-46-6 (d)**

**Mr. Bob Thurber of 20 Brian Avenue asked who does all of the accounting for the enterprise fund and where are all of the records kept?**

**Mr. Connolly informed him that it is the finance department that handles all town finances.**

**Mr. DeCelles told him that it is a separate budget but it is in the audit and is part of the town audit.**

**Mr. Nordstrom explained to Mr. Thurber that the enterprise fund is a self sustained budget. It is not part of the town's tax rolls. All sewer user fees, salaries etc. all come out of that enterprise fund.**

**Mr. Thurber asked why would Halliwell hook up into a School Street/Birch Hill project. That isn't the address.**

**Mr. DeCelles explained that the pump station for that project is in Halliwell's back yard.**

**Mr. Nordstrom explained that it a combination between the engineer and the town and depending upon where the engineer and the town drew the district boundaries and Halliwell it was within that sewer district.**

**Mr. Thurber asked why aren't they connected?**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that they have been paying the assessment and user fees for years and they are not connected. He stated that would be a good question to ask the school department. The town is receiving the revenue.**

**Mr. Connolly commented that they were also paying on the upkeep of their system.**

**April 28, 2011**

**Mr. Nordstrom stated that they are working on trying to straighten those things out.**

**Mr. DeMayo asked about cleaning the lines in the proposed budget. He asked of where the lines were?**

**Mr. Carpenter informed him that it was the interceptor line. There is about one mile line in Woonsocket that North Smithfield has to maintain.**

**Mr. Connolly stated that it is a flow that is in North Smithfield into the Woonsocket plant and it is a town line.**

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION by Mr. DeCelles, seconded by Mr. Nordstrom and voted unanimously on a 4-0 aye vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Patricia A. Paul**

**Commission Secretary**