

WATER/SEWER MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

Present: Roland Barney, Marty Frizzell, Ralph Wilkins, Lucille Stevens and Lisa Moore

Roland Barney called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Review Minutes of January 16, 2018: The board reviewed the minutes of January 16, 2018. Ralph Wilkins made a motion to accept the minutes. Lucille Stevens seconds. All in favor.

Updates: None

Public Notice: None

Tax Sale: The board will be seeking legal counsel for direction in handling the matter of nonpayment of water and sewer service. There are several accounts that have very high balances. The board will be considering having these homes put up for sanitation sales in order to collect revenue due to the water/sewer board. Marty Frizzell will contact VLCT to request a reference to an attorney who is familiar with municipal matters such as these. Lucy Stevens will also be meeting with Atty. Davies concerning these matters.

Delinquent Accounts: Monica Quick obtained a doctor's note stating that because her husband is disabled he should have reliable access to a clean water. This is the second doctor's note received from the Quick's for this reason. The note provides them with 30 days that their water cannot be shut off. The Quick's have not made any payment on their water/sewer account since September of 2017.

A shut off notice is going to be sent to Sharon Henault along with a warning letter that her property may be put up for sanitation sale through the delinquent tax collector for reason of nonpayment of her water/sewer service.

The Water/Sewer Department is also concerned with several other high balance accounts. These accounts are mostly homes that no one lives in now that still have unpaid balances. They plan to take care of all of these matters after seeking legal counsel.

Circumstances such as these are a financial burden to our water/sewer department in which others who receive water and sewer services end up having to make up for these financial losses by paying increased water/sewer rates.

A new list of people who have fallen behind on the last quarter's billing was made and notices will be sent out to remind them to pay in full or come in and sign a payment agreement.

Gina Giroux sent a letter to the water department requesting a refund and reduction in billing since their property has not been rented for some time. The water board will be sending her a response letter.

Brian Ash made a request to have a credit applied to his last bill. He said his water was not even turned on until October 2017, so he would like a credit for part of the quarter billing. The water board will be sending him a response letter.

Painting Reservoirs: David Page was going to be painting our reservoir buildings in the Spring. Unfortunately, David Page recently passed away. Marty Frizzell will put out a new Invitation to Bid. He will put the notice out around Town and also in the Newport Daily Express and the Chronicle. There will be a deadline for the bids and a deadline for when the paint job will be done. The painter must have insurance.

Marty's Comments: Marty received some quotes from Tardif's and Fred's for heaters and emergency showers. The board found it difficult to compare the two, so they asked that Marty's have them do a similar breakdown comparison that makes it easier for them to compare. Marty may even do a spec sheet for each of them to fill out.

Marty now has the two pumps back that had been in for repairs.

Marty said problems have been relatively mild this winter in the area of freeze ups. He has only had a few issues that were basement freeze ups.

There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.