

WATER/SEWER MEETING
March 20, 2018

Present: Roland Barney, Marty Frizzell, Ralph Wilkins, Lucy Stevens & Lisa Moore

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

Review Minutes of 02/20/18: The board reviewed the minutes of 02/20/18. Ralph Wilkins made a motion to accept the minutes. Lucy Stevens seconds. All in favor.

Updates: Re-Organization of the board.

Ralph Wilkins nominated Roland Barney to continue as the Chairperson of the water/sewer board. Lucy Stevens seconds the motion. All in favor. Roland Barney accepted the position.

Ralph Wilkins made a motion to recommend to the selectboard that Roland Barney continue as the Sewer Commissioner. Lucy seconds. All in favor.

Lucy made a motion to keep the water/sewer board meetings scheduled the same as in the past, being every third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM, downstairs in the Town Hall. Ralph seconds. All in favor.

Lucy Stevens & Lisa Moore will not be able to attend the next scheduled meeting for April 17th. Marty will be inviting A & E to the next meeting to discuss the Search Grant. He will try to reschedule the regular meeting for April 24th and/or possibly schedule a Special Meeting on May 15th, in order to accommodate meeting with A&E.

Marty will inform the Selectboard of our next meeting.

Public Notice: None

Tax Sales: Lucy inquired with Atty. Bill Davies concerning properties that do not get bid on, when they go to tax sale. She asked if this meant that the debt to the water/sewer department was forgiven. She learned that the debt is not forgiven and that there are other ways to collect the debt due.

All delinquent accounts facing a tax sale have until May 31st to pay their accounts, otherwise Lucy plans to turn a list of persons with delinquent accounts over to Atty. Davies on June 1st. The actual tax sale is scheduled for July 10th.

Marty will be compiling a list of names of delinquent account holders that have not made an agreement in response to the notices that were sent out to them. He will compose a letter for the water commissioner(s) to review and sign, that will warn these people of the upcoming tax sale for nonpayment of delinquent accounts.

Ralph made a motion to get the letters out to these delinquent account holders by April 1st and to have a deadline for payment by May 31st. Lucy seconds. All in favor.

Marty check w/VLCT on Delinquent AC's: Marty said he has not yet talked with VLCT, but he will do so in the near future.

Letters were sent to Gina Giroux & Brian Ash: On February 23rd, Marty sent a letter out to Brian Ash, in response to his request for a credit to his account. Marty's letter explained that the board denied his request, because in October of 2017, the board already credited his account by \$1026.48. He explained that charges are assessed quarterly and are basically base charges, so the use or lack of use of water has minimal impact on the cost.

On March 1st, Marty sent a letter to Gina Giroux regarding her request for a credit. She wanted a credit because the building has not been rented or used any water for some time. Marty explained in his letter to Ms. Giroux, that although the board denied her request for a credit, they agreed that moving forward, to begin billing her account for a debt service only. This will be \$39 every quarterly billing rather than \$208 every quarterly billing.

Sharon Henault Warning Letter: Sharon Henault made a payment of \$150 on March 2nd, but she has made no other attempt to resolve the matter of her delinquent account.

Painting Reservoir Buildings: Marty has not put a bid out for the painting of the reservoirs yet. He will do this by the end of the month. The deadline for the bid will be May 14th and the completion date will be by October 1st.

Quotes from Tardif & Fred's: Marty still has to get clear on some of the information from Tardif & Fred's concerning the quotes for heaters and emergency showers. He will be contacting them for this.

A&E to meet with board in April's meeting to schedule search grant: The next regular meeting date in April is cancelled. Marty will be trying to set up a date for when A&E can meet concerning the search grant. There may possibly be a special meeting for this on May 15th.

Marty's Comments: Marty said that he spoke with Misty Sinsigalli from USDA concerning grants and advised that because President Trump is cutting back on grants, we should be sure to put in for any as soon as possible. It will be better to apply sooner than later.

Marty spoke with Donny Boutin concerning his delinquent water bill. Donny was told by his plumbers that he should keep his water running so that it doesn't freeze. Donny asked Marty to make a request to the board to accept his \$400 payment as full coverage of his approximate \$800 balance. The board did not agree to this. Marty inspected Donny's basement for leaks and discovered that the foundation stone has shifted deeming the building as unsafe. Marty made an operational decision at this time and told Donny to keep his water running and that the Water/Board would absorb any overage cost moving forward, until he tells Donny otherwise. Marty made this decision because he was concerned that the house is not safe, so he does not want any of his workers to have to go in there to do any work pertaining to frozen water or leaks. Marty contacted Melinda Gervais and Area Agency on Aging concerning safe housing for Donny.

Marty said that he talked to Bucky Tardif and it is determined that Norman Stebenne does have a leak.

Bucky Tardif and Walter Hallock purchased a house on Railroad Street. They have a tenant going into it. They are not sure if the water line leaks, but they were told that it should be replaced. They have requested that Marty turn the water on for the tenants. Marty will fashion a letter stating that the water will be turned on as a courtesy, but if it is discovered that there is a strong leak, they will have to fix it sooner than later. Before he turns the water on, the remaining balance due from the last billing must be paid in full.

Betty Castrogiovanni's water is frozen. The understanding is that it is due to lack of heat in the building. This is a matter that the water/sewer board has no responsibility for.

Marty has been working on the Phosphorous Optimization Plan and also on an Emergency Power Outage Plan.

Commissioner's Comments: Roland Barney said that on Thursday, March 22, he and Bruce Rolfe will be going out to do water shut offs.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM