

**WATER/SEWER BOARD MEETING**  
**April 10, 2018**

Roland Barney called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Present:** Roland Barney, Marty Frizzell, Ralph Wilkins, Lucy Stevens, Michael Strait, Nate Pion, Wayne Elliot, Joel Cope, Jonathan O'Keefe and Lisa Moore

**Review Minutes:** The board reviewed the minutes of March 20, 2018. Ralph made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Lucy seconds. All in favor.

**Update Agenda:** No updates

**Public Notice:** None

**A&E/Search Grant:** Wayne Elliott and Nate Pion from A&E were present to present the results of the water facilities planning study for upgrading our water treatment plants and water distribution system. A hand out of the summary of their findings was shared with the board. Nate pion gave a verbal overview of their findings and recommendations.

If the board decides to move forward with the plan, Joel will put them in touch with Land Works & Vtrans so that they can coordinate their work with one another.

Nate Pion explained that the next step, if we want to go with their plan, is to draft a schedule for construction. There is a planning grant for this. We just need to submit an application. The application would be due by the end of this year. Wayne Elliott recommended that we proceed with a preliminary engineering plan and funding by filling out an application with USDA. He said Newport just got a 62% grant from them. He warned that it will be better to apply as soon as possible. Though there is funding for the plan, if we have it done and don't move forward with it, we will have to pay it back. If the board decides to do this, A&E will draft the application to USDA for us. They said we do have a \$6000 credit with them at this time that we can apply toward the cost.

Some of the town's water lines are over 100 years old. Our facilities are over 30 years old. All are in need of replacement or upgrades. The total project costs will be around \$2,900,000. The board discussed that though this is a lot of money, it will cost more if we wait longer to do this. There will also be grants to help with the costs. Ralph Wilkins made a motion to take the next step and go ahead with a preliminary engineering plan. Lucy Stevens seconds. All in favor. Marty will call A&E and let them know that the board has decided to move forward with this. Ralph also made a motion for Roland Barney to be able to sign anything for the waterboard going forth with this plan. Lucy Stevens seconds, all in favor.

**Marty check w/VLCT on Delinquent Accounts:** Marty did not speak with VLCT on this matter, because he did not know what specifically to ask. He said if we had a specific question, that he will contact them.

**Sharon Henault:** Marty said that he did not send another letter to Sharon Henault concerning her water/sewer bill. It appears that the house may be being sold soon, at which time the water bill will need to be paid in full.

**Jimmy Bone:** Jim Bone recently had some serious health issues and is presently hospitalized. His wife said that they will not be able to pay on their bill until he gets back to work. The board asked that Marty send a letter to the Bone's telling them that they can provide one month's leeway in time before they have to make a payment. After that they will have to find a means of paying on their bill.

Jennifer & Janet Stebenne called concerning their water bill. They recently purchased the Sawyer property on Derby Street. They said they were to be responsible for a prorated portion of the bill and the previous owners were supposed to pay their portion. Somehow this did not get taken care of at the closing. The lawyers agree that it should have been and that the Sawyer's should pay their portion. The problem has not been resolved. Jennifer asked if they could pay only the portion that they were supposed to be responsible for. The board denied this request, saying that whoever holds the deed to the home is liable for the entire payment.

**Painting Reservoir Bldings:** Marty has not put the notice for bids in the newspapers yet for the painting job. Ralph said that we should run the adds, as soon as possible, in both the Newport Daily paper and the Chronicle for three days each, being Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Marty will also post them on the town bulletin boards and alert Kingdom Construction; Doug Niles and Andy Gallup who have previously shown interest in this painting job.

**Quotes for heater:** Marty suggested that the emergency showers be tabled until another time, since there are so many other things of priority going on right now. The board had two estimates. One from Fred's Plumbing and heating and the other from Bucky Tardiff. Ralph Wilkins recused himself from any discussion or decision concerning the matter. Lucy made a motion to award the contract for the Rinnai heater to Fred's and to table the emergency shower until a later date. Roland Barney seconds. All in favor. Marty will contact Fred's and Bucky Tardiff to let them know of the board's decision.

**Marty's Comments:** Marty said that he spoke with the foreman at the Railroad building concerning their water billing. Marty says that they are not connected to the Town's Water/Sewer system, but they receive a bill for 2 units. He cannot find it in the minutes, but he believes that long ago they were probably required to hook on with the Town, but they chose not to hook up. He thinks an agreement was made long ago. The board told Marty that instead of charging them for 2 units, going forth, only charge them for one unit.

Maurice Barnes is putting in a pavilion with a sprinkler system. He will have to hook a 6" line to our system. This will be at Maurice's expense.

**Commissioner's Comments:** None

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM