

WATER AND SEWER BOARD MEETING MINUTES JUNE 20, 2023

Present: Andy Martin, Mark Vaillancourt, Kean Galunas, Zach Letourneau, Bruce Rumball-Petre, Andre Fauteux, Nicole Fauteux, Doris Boisvert, Teresa DeBonville, and Noah Bond.

Attending virtually: Anne Budrewicz, Joel Cope, Mike Strait, Heather McElroy, Bruce Webster, and WCAX.

Bruce Rumball-Petre called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Updates to the agenda: Update on schedule for installation of rails at Brighton Elementary, and response to WCAX.

Bruce Rumball-Petre updated the board on the schedule of installing the new rail system there. Bruce informed the board that the monies had been allocated in the budget for the summer of 2023, and work could start at any time.

Bruce Rumball-Petre showed the board a copy of the response to an email sent by WCAX TV on the increase of the rates. The board agreed to the response, Bruce will email the reporter back with this.

Public comment: Andre Fauteux was present to express concerns at the rising rates of the water and sewer quarterly bills. The board explained to Mr. Fauteux why the rates had to be raised and apologized for the short notice. The board also explained to Mr. Fauteux why they lowered the allowable gallon usage to 12000 instead of 15000.

Doris Boisvert asked questions about whether every house had to have a meter and mentioned to the board that her house on Elm Street had two meters. Zach will investigate this for her and see if her house really requires two meters.

Sludge Testing for removal bidding by contractors: The board received an email from Laura Clements, from Endyne for the cost of around \$7,000.00 to test the sludge in both lagoons. This is a necessary step that needs to be taken before the removal of the sludge can occur. Mark Vaillancourt motions to except the bid from Endyne and move forward with the testing. Andy Martin seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Back Street pumping station protective billiards/fencing: The board agreed that keeping the billiards in place that are by the Back Street Pump Station for the remainder of this year. Next year once the check valves are installed, then they will discuss putting up a fence and removing the cement billiards.

Street Paving on Cross Street in front of the Essex House: Andy told the board that he tried to get PIKE to do this project when they were here putting the second coat on the Pleasant Street project, but PIKE was unable to do this at that time. When PIKE comes back to do the grant project at the bottom of Pleasant Street, Andy will have them pave this then.

Review of meter readings for 2nd quarter billing: The board reviewed the meter readings for accuracy in the second quarter billing. Heather McElroy asked about the overage when the town asks people to run their water in the winter to prevent freeze ups. The same policy will remain in place, that if the town asks you to run your water any overages will be forgiven on the billing.

Federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions: Joel updated the board on this. The town is required to do an inventory by 2024 and could receive funding up to \$93,000.00 to do so on this. Joel will read over the paperwork on this to see what funding we will be able to receive, and then H2O can hire whomever they would like to do this.

Pump station upgrade information needed: Noah has received the information from Rodger on the cost of the controller for Meadow Street. This will be at a cost of around \$15,000.00.

Approve minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the May 6, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Andy Martin to accept the minutes as printed. Mark Vaillancourt seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: The board discussed purchasing a new trench box for the operators. Andy mentioned that this may be covered through a PACIF grant. If the board would like to pursue this, it won't be able to be done until 2024, and they will have to bring this before the select board to see if this may be an option.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.