

Approved 10/14/2015
NORRIDGEWOCK SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Bruce Obert, Tina Gossman, Ronald Currier, Charlotte Curtis,

OTHERS PRESENT: Sewer Administrator, Sewer Plant Operator

1. The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman Gossman.
2. Review the minutes of 04/08/2015, 06/10/2015, 08/03/2015 and 08/04/2015: Ronald Currier moved to accept the minutes of 04/08/2015, Bruce Obert seconded. All in favor. Secretary Charlotte Curtis found a typing mistake in Item 2-Administrator was misspelled. Charlotte Curtis moved to accept the minutes as amended, Bruce Obert seconded. All in favor.(Chairman Gossman stated she wanted the minutes to reflect that the Sewer Administrator recorded this meeting). Tina Gossman moved to accept the minutes of 08/04/2015, Ronald Currier seconded. All in favor.(Chairman Gossman stated she wanted the minutes to reflect that the Sewer Administrator recorded this meeting as well).
3. Chairman Gossman suggested using a recorder for all the meetings. Charlotte Curtis stated she had no objections to it. Ronald Currier said he had no objection but didn't see any reason for it. Chairman Gossman moved to have all the meetings recorded. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Currier asked questions about the Reserve accounts. Sewer Administrator told him that the Reserve Accounts are for Capital Repairs and not for general use (ex: to reduce the Sewer Department debt.

Mr. Currier asked about the maintenance at the sewer plant. He requested the Sewer Administrator and Plant Operator make a list of work that needs to be done and prioritize it for the Commissioners. The Sewer Administrator replied that she thought the Commissioners should hire someone to come in and report to us what needs to be done. Mr. Currier commented "that would be more expense and we don't need that". The Sewer Administrator advised the Commissioners that the State has grants for updating sewer plants. An expert would need to be hired and an engineering firm would have to be named.

When Mr. Currier requested the Board to go into Executive Session for personnel issues, the Sewer Administrator advised that this Board cannot have Executive Sessions about personnel but this Board should refer them to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Obert stated that at the last meeting (over a year ago) the Commissioners received financial reports that gave the impression that the Sewer Department was out of debt. It was not.

Chairman Gossman suggested that copies of the recordings of these meetings be made for all members of the Board. The recorder is the personal property of the Sewer Administrator.

The Sewer Administrator told us that in 2012 the Commissioners voted to raise the user rates in small increments over the next five years. Ms. Curtis questioned why the current Board was not given this information at budget time.

In reference to a letter to the Commissioners from the Board of Selectmen: Mr. Currier moved to request of the Board of Selectmen that the Sewer Administrator and the Sewer Operator make a plant-wide list/plan of maintenance needed, Bruce Obert seconded. All in favor. The Commissioners will meet with the Board of Selectmen on 09/16/2015.

Chairman Gossman volunteered to find out how much Woodard and Curran costs Madison each year.

In response to a question about moving sludge to the Madison plant for treatment, the Board was told that one load per day is going to Madison because the truck is still being used to spread Norridgewock's sludge.

Mr. Obert stated that he had talked with Mark King at the DEP. Mr. King told him we could process the sludge ourselves by spreading it on a concrete or asphalt pad with a tank for collecting the liquids and make compost with it. Mr. Obert was asked to request the man from DEP to come and discuss composting with the Board.

Chairman Gossman said she will make some calls to find out the cost of creating a maintenance plan.

Mr. Currier moved to request that the Sewer Department revenues and expenditures, Reserve Accounts, Capital Accounts all be included in the Town Report, Ms. Gossman seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Currier asked who writes the item about the Sewer Department for the Town Report. The Sewer Administrator suggested that the Commissioners do this.

Two volunteer applications were presented to the Board for consideration to fill the vacancy created by the death of Richard Holt. Mr. Obert moved to have the Board of Selectmen appoint Josh Chartrand, Ms. Curtis seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Currier moved to adjourn at 7:23 PM, Ms. Curtis seconded. All in favor.

Note: During the meeting Mr. Currier called the Ms. Flewelling "Sweetheart". Ms. Flewelling and Chairman Gossman objected to this. Mr. Currier apologized to Ms. Flewelling by name, Ms. Gossman by name and Mr. Gossman by name while the meeting was still in open session before the meeting adjourned. This is included in the minutes, not because it is required (by law only motions and votes are required) but because it was considered important by the Board.

The next meeting of the Sewer Commissioners will be on Wednesday October 14, 2015 at 4:30 PM.