

MINUTES
April 22, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners was called to order by Elaine Fiore at 7:00 PM. Members in attendance were Elaine Fiore and Peter Cobb.

Department bills were approved and signed totaling \$30,181.54 and an inspection invoice was approved totaling \$60.00.

Eric Graham of EnerNOC attended the meeting to review a special program that is available to the Wastewater Department to reimburse the department for using the generator to power the plant during times of peak demand for energy. The plant would be powered by the generator while the energy normally used by the plant during an emergency demand period would be diverted to other customers. The reason for such a program is to help avoid blackouts in high demand areas. High temperatures and humidity present high demand. The generator would be cycled on when the grid reaches near maximum demand.

The Wastewater plant would be enrolled as a site and the energy demand would be monitored to establish a base line. The plant would have a pretty steady demand of 200 KW. Every time there is an event the base line would be monitored. Credit checks for power diverted from the plant to other customers on the grid would be delivered to the WWTF for the capacity that the plant is enrolled for. At least once every year the plant would be tested or would be used during an event. The current rate of compensation is \$3.05 per KW hour of enrolled capacity per event. The average amount of compensation to be expected for 200 KW over a 5-year period of time would be \$6000.00 annually.

Q – Is there a penalty if the generator is running during an event and cannot be used for that event?

A – No. The rating would be reduced for the event and would remain reduced until the base line comes back up.

Q – Constellation New Energy just sent information to the plant about this same type of program. How is this different from the EnerNOC program?

A – EnerNOC gives more than 100% of the energy needed during an event. CNE is not as reliable. They do not have as many opportunities to respond to an event as EnerNOC.

Should the Wastewater Department sign up for the program, EnerNOC would get a list of 3 phone numbers and email addresses to notify when there is an event. They will be notified when an event is expected. They will help the WWTF maximize their performance within the program. The typical demand is usually between 1 and 3 PM. They do have the ability to set up a remote start up and stop feature.

There is a small box that will need to be installed in the electrical room, approximately 1 square foot in size. It requires 110 power and high speed internet connections.

The Board asked that Mr. Graham send a contract information package and a list of other towns that are enrolled in this program already. The Sewer Commission will need to have Town Counsel review any contracts. Mr. Graham provided a copy of Chapter 30B procurement information. It refers to being compensated for something the Town is providing to another party.

Jack Breen of the Board of Health attended the meeting to discuss the Sewer Connection Loan Program. He was told that the program totaled \$600,000.00 and that \$300,000.00 went toward sewer connection loans and \$300,000.00 went toward septic repair loans. The sewer loan portion still has \$200,000.00 available in it. Mr. Breen said that there seems to be some members of his Board that want to save some of the money for people that may have financial problems because the money may not always be there from the State. The current program does not have any income restrictions. History of this program has capped the limit at \$3000.00. Ms. Fiore said that she remembered meeting with the Board of Health about this when they met in what is now the Sewer Commission office. She said she recalled discussing that the applications would be considered by case as well as by the \$3000.00 cap. Mr. Breen said he felt that the Sewer Commission should have jurisdiction over the sewer loan portion. Ms. Fiore added that if the Sewer Commission has money left when all of the connections are done, that they might vote to make it available for septic loans. Mr. Cobb commented that in Phase 1 there was a loan granted for \$9000.00. He does not know how this happened. The connection was not even done until a few years after the loan was granted. The Sewer Commission should have given approval for this loan but they were not consulted. Mr. Breen said he felt that the feeling of his Board would be to extend the additional funding but that he would have to consult with them about it.

Mario Vernazzaro of 16 Smith's Lane attended to discuss 2 issues. He provided the Board with copies of 2 sewer/water bills and 1 tax bill. Mr. Vernazzaro stated that he uses a boat in the summer and when he brings it back home he has to flush the engine out. He also has a vegetable garden that requires outside watering. His 3rd quarter water/sewer bill was double his normal off season bill from the 2nd quarter. He said that sewer customers need to have separate water meters. Ms. Fiore told Mr. Vernazzaro that the Sewer Commissioners had met with the Water Commissioners many times and that they do not want to issue second meters. They will not consider it. Mr. Vernazzaro stated that the sewer customers should be billed the same amount for the 3rd and 4th quarter bills as they are billed for the 1st and 2nd quarters. Ms. Fiore explained that there is no automated way to do this and that it would require each bill to be adjusted by hand. The current billing system does not allow the Sewer Commissioners to bill for anything less than 100% of water consumption. If the billing system were changed, all of the sewer customers would have to pay for it. The Sewer Commission cannot ask 90% of the customers to pay for something that will help reduce the rates for only 10% of the customers. Mr. Vernazzaro said that he planned to attend a Water Commissioners meeting to discuss this matter.

Mr. Vernazzaro also wanted to discuss the betterment for a vacant lot he owns on Smith's Lane. He asked if the Board would waive the betterment tax until he develops the

lot or sells it. Ms. Fiore explained that the betterment was assessed to a buildable lot and that the capacity for it is held. If the Board were able to remove the betterment then that would require him to give up his capacity. The betterment cannot be waived. Mr. Vernazzaro said he did not realize it would mean he would be giving up his capacity.

The Board signed letters to Bernard McCourt at Mass Highway regarding Phase 2 final paving, Douglas Buitenhuis regarding his sewer service connection and Frederick Tonsberg regarding his user fees for Indian Pond Country Club.

Mr. Vandal discussed that Flygt was replacing one of the pumps at the Riverside Drive pumping station. Mr. Vandal said his feeling was that there is a power problem at the station and that it is not a pump problem. There is single-phase power at this pumping station and it probably should have had 3-phase power. He will keep the Board informed about whether the new pump resolves the problems that have occurred at this station.

The Board approved and signed a building permit application for 49 Smith's Lane. The permit being held for 10 Standish Avenue West will be returned unsigned as it has been referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a decision regarding the setbacks.

The Board discussed the current meeting schedule and decided that there is no pending business that requires 2 meetings per month. The meetings scheduled for May 6 and June 3 will be cancelled and the schedule will be reviewed again in June.

Hillcrest Road postcards will be mailed out this week to everyone except the Boutins and the Buitenhuis. All other connections can be done. Easements and service connections are still pending on the remaining 2 properties.

MOTION by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Peter Cobb, to approve the summary of the Green Committee presentation of March 25, 2008 and the minutes of the Sewer Commission Special Presentation of March 27, 2008. The motion was so voted.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Peter Cobb, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. The motion was so voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant