

MINUTES
August 14, 2007

The meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 PM by Elaine Fiore. Members in attendance tonight were Elaine Fiore and Peter Cobb. Also present from the Wastewater Department were Ken Vandal and Bob Monaghan and John Veracka, the connection inspector.

The first order of business was to review the performance of Leonard Bianco, a licensed Drain Layer. Ms. Fiore discussed that the Board had received a letter from the property owner of 16 Riverside Drive regarding some problems that occurred during the sewer connection.

Mr. Bianco reviewed that he had discovered ledge on the property, which caused him to make adjustments to the original connection plan. The waste pipe was taken under the cellar floor in order to make the connection. During the project some cracks occurred in a concrete walkway. He has spoken with Mr. Mitchell about this today as well as correcting the missing length of pipe at the end of the down spout that was removed during installation of the sewer line. Mr. Bianco stated that he had made plans to correct these items tomorrow.

Mr. Cobb mentioned that Mr. Mitchell had noticed some water in the cellar that he did not have previous to the connection. Mr. Bianco said he would look into this as well and would check to be sure that the concrete was sealed around the pipe.

Mr. Veracka reported that Mr. Bianco is up to date with all of his paperwork now and that he has been keeping in touch regularly. There is only 1 outstanding application waiting for connection.

The Board asked that Mr. Bianco remain in contact with the property owner at 16 Riverside Drive and to continue to maintain his paperwork with the department.

Mr. Veracka reviewed that Arthur Wrightington had completed 11 connections since he became inspector and that he is missing most of the paperwork for every one of these jobs. He and the office staff have made numerous requests for the paperwork, including providing lists of the missing items. To date nothing has been turned in. The Board discussed whether Mr. Wrightington should be allowed to remain on the list of approved Drain Layers or not. He is delinquent on his paperwork obligation, connected one home without an approved application or scheduled inspection, and in the past has not given advance notice to the inspector that he would be starting a new connection. The Board has also received complaints that customers have been unable to contact him regarding their connections. After several minutes of discussion the following vote was taken.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Elaine Fiore, to permanently remove Arthur Wrightington from the list of Licensed Drain Layers for 2007, due to neglecting

his paperwork, connecting a home without a signed permit and failing to give advance notice to the inspector. The motion was so voted.

The Board made no decision regarding whether they would extend this revocation into 2008 or not. That matter will be addressed at the appropriate time.

Mr. Veracka discussed that nearly 80% of the homes that have been connected in the area of Riverside Drive have had failed septic systems. Many systems were cesspools or repaired septic tanks that were no longer functioning properly. He mentioned that the paperwork situation with the contractors is improving. About half of the missing items have been turned in over the past week.

Dan Sapir asked about customers that are using large amounts of water for irrigation and swimming pools. He has heard there is no discount available for outside use. Ms. Fiore reviewed that the Board had sought to bill 90% of water consumption during the summer months, but the MUNIS system used by the Town of Kingston cannot accommodate percentage billing. The Water Department has also been consulted regarding issuing second meters, but they have stated they will not issue second meters for outside watering. There have been several meetings about this matter but there has been no resolution.

The Board discussed the pending Town Center Pump Station Change Order. CDM has been negotiating this with Revoli Construction and so far has reduced the request from \$205,000.00 down to \$145,000.00. Mr. Masse has discussed this with Ken Vandal and Mr. Masse feels that \$125,000.00 might be a more reasonable figure. All properties north of Kingston center and on Wapping Road cannot be connected until all of the pumping stations are released. Testing of the pump stations is supposed to take place this Thursday. The Board should receive a verbal report on the testing by the end of the week.

Lloyd Geisinger met with the Board at 7:45 to discuss the cost of engineering the plant expansion. He stated that his agreement with the Board allows him input on the design costs. He is seeking other estimates in order to see if the estimate from CDM is within a reasonable cost range. He has asked Horsley & Witten, and Tate & Howard for cost estimates for the design of the plant expansion. He feels that Tate & Howard will give him a very accurate reply. He expects a proposal from them by next week. Horsley & Witten works mainly with private projects. Mr. Cobb pointed out that the specifications need to be compatible with the equipment currently in use so that all of the parts will be interchangeable. Mr. Geisinger agreed and said he wanted to discuss the procedure for his opportunities to consult with the Sewer Commissioners along the way.

Ms. Fiore felt that the first step was to resolve the design phase. CDM has estimated 1.2 million dollars and has included a contingency in this figure. The Horsley & Witten estimate is about \$600,000.00 but they did not include the same items that were included in the CDM estimate. The hydro geological work and the new highway ramp could easily increase the design cost by \$400,000.00. Mr. Vandal pointed out that they did not include new headworks. There must be a new headworks for the development because there will be another pump station added to the infrastructure. There are other items that also must be added. Mr. Geisinger asked if Mr. Vandal and Mr. Monaghan would consider a meeting with Jack O'Connell of Tate & Howard. He would like to get a brief tour of the plant before he prepares a final estimate. Mr. Vandal said they would be willing to provide a tour. Ms. Fiore stated that the Board needs to know what the other

firms will charge for the same items provided by CDM for 1.2 million dollars. You cannot make a comparison of different proposals. Mr. Geisinger asked if he could provide the CDM draft to the 2 firms he has spoken to so they can price their estimates the same way. The Board had no problem allowing this.

Mr. Cobb asked if the idea of constructing a private plant, to be turned over to the Town in the future, has been taken off the table for consideration. Ms. Fiore said she felt that the idea was off the table but that there had been no formal decision. Mr. Vandal added that the Wastewater staff was not in favor of the idea because they would have no control over what would be built. After 10 years, the plant could be turned over to the Town in need of major repairs and upgrades, which could cost the Town a significant amount of money. Mr. Geisinger stated that if he were to build a private plant, it did not mean that CDM would not have oversight over all of the work. He fully expects that the current plant will be expanded and that CDM will design it and oversee construction. He is asking for the courtesy of having input on the process.

Ms. Fiore said she would like to have the 3 firms sit down together. CDM has said they expect the design fee to be 8% of the cost of the expansion of the plant. Mr. Geisinger commented that Don Freeman has told him the same amount of hours will be spent on the expansion as were spent on the design of the original plant. CDM needs to estimate their design cost based on those hours, but at today's hourly rate, not a percentage of the project cost. Ms. Fiore stated that the original project cost was \$29,000,000.00. Someone would have to research the original design costs. Mr. Cobb calculated that 8% of \$29,000,000.00 would be \$2,320,000.00 for Phase 1.

Mr. Geisinger asked if the plant is set up to add just 1 more SBR. Mr. Vandal commented that there is only 1 disc filter now. If something were to happen to it there would be no backup. The same is true for the GBT. If this was down for a significant amount of time, there would be a problem shipping the liquid sludge. There would be a problem with anything other than Phase 1 and 2 going to headworks. The plant is only designed for Phase 1 and 2. Ms. Fiore added that a 3rd SBR could be built for backup purposes but that there would be no support system for expanding the customer base. The plant was only designed for 375,000 gallons per day of discharge. The plant has met this capacity by adding Phase 2. Mr. Vandal stated that adding the capacity of another SBR would require new headworks. Ms. Fiore mentioned that flow does not have to be taken from the waiting list. If another SBR were added for maintenance purposes and there was no leaching field to take additional flow, there would be no need for new headworks. If flow were taken from new customers, then new headworks would be needed.

Mr. Geisinger asked for another meeting to review the design estimates. The Board decided to cancel the meeting on August 21st and to reschedule the meeting to Aug. 28th. The estimates will be reviewed at that meeting.

Mr. Sapir asked what Mr. Geisinger needs for his project. Approximately 200,000 gallons is needed for Mr. Geisinger's project and 175,000 gallons is needed for the Town. This figure was rounded to 400,000 gallons for a private plant. Mr. Sapir wanted to know if this idea was still being pursued. Mr. Geisinger said that he has an agreement with the Sewer Commissioners to expand the plant and that is his intention. However, now is the time to explore other options. He intends to expand the plant.

Another SBR may not require more wasting pumps or another electrical room. There have been no repair issues with the wasting pumps. Only 1 blower is needed for

them. They have been using 2 because of the aeration problems with the SBR currently being taken down for maintenance. Mr. Vandal repeated that the cost estimate from Horsley & Witten did not mention disc filters or other ancillary items that would be needed. Mr. Geisinger said he would supply the CDM draft to both companies and report the results on August 28th.

The Board members each received a Default Order on the Boutin case. Town Counsel will contact the court for a dismissal. All of the paperwork required of the Sewer Commission was taken care of by July 2007. The abatement report was delivered to the Accountant, Collector, Treasurer and Assessors on June 20, 2007. An approval letter was mailed to the Boutins with an abatement certificate the same day. The lien release was recorded at the Registry of Deeds on June 21, 2007, Book 34700 and Page 317. An email from the Collector to Kevin Donovan indicated that the abatement was posted July 13, 2007 and that a refund check was posted 8/2/07 for \$128.10. The abatement for 2008 will be deducted from the tax record and no refund is needed for 2008.

Mr. Vandal discussed the connection problems discovered at 11 Leland Road. Norman Short found the stub at 27 inches deep. The card had indicated it was 3 feet, or 36 inches deep. The sewer main on Leland is very shallow. The end manhole shows evidence of material that may have backed up from the house down the road that is already connected to the sewer. A grinder pump is needed for 11 Leland Road, but it could freeze up this winter at 27 inches deep. The best approach would be to use the minimum 1/8 inch pitch and make a gravity connection. There may be a problem changing the plumbing to accommodate a gravity connection. The manhole on the plan is 4 feet deep but the actual conditions appear to be less than that. It might be possible to put a check valve on the connection to prevent anything from flowing back into the house from the sewer main. This probably would not be the best idea because it might not work very well with the 1/8 inch minimum pitch.

The Board asked that a letter be prepared and sent to CDM describing the problem and asking them for the best solution to this matter.

Documentation was provided as received from the Stony Brook project, regarding the status of the project and from the Kingston Housing Authority regarding their sewer connection.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Elaine Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. The motion was so voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant