

Minutes  
February 10, 2009

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

The Sewer Commission sign department bills totaling \$7153.45 and \$303.95. Two bill adjustments were also signed for \$84.80 and (\$82.82).

Ms. Fiore reported that the ZBA is meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 and that they will be discussing if they will enforce the Town by-law regarding unpaid taxes and fees. The Board is specifically interested in the outcome as it relates to unpaid user fees due from Frederick Tonsberg for Indian Pond Country Club. Ms. Fiore plans to attend this meeting.

Ms. Fiore distributed some cost summary sheets for the potential plant expansion, including some numbers proposed as user fee rate reductions. She also discussed that a meeting has been scheduled with CDM on February 18, 2009 at their Cambridge office. The Board will review the plant expansion options.

Water reuse was discussed briefly as was septage receiving. Mr. Vandal stated that he would prefer that Thorndike reuse its own effluent rather than receive effluent from the Town. The UV system is costly and labor intensive. A new reuse agreement could alter the current Groundwater Discharge Permit issued by the State to the Town wastewater treatment facility. Adding another SBR might require hiring another operator. The State requirements need to be reviewed to determine if this is true. **The Board discussed that if Mr. Vandal did not approve of providing effluent from the WWTF to Kingston's Place then it would no longer be considered.**

Two new requests for sewer capacity have been received from Karen Wheble for 21 and 23 Jones River Drive. The Board reviewed the requests and approved them by the following vote.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Sean Walsh to add 21 and 23 Jones River Drive to the waiting list for sewer capacity. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A letter from the owner of 5 River Street was reviewed. He is requesting an adjustment to his user fees. The Board discussed that he is past-due but has agreed to pay the remainder of his bill in full promptly if an allowance is made for unexpected outside watering needed to grow new grass. The Board discussed that this was a Phase 1 customer but that One-Time-Only adjustments have been allowed for such instances.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Elaine Fiore, to accept \$3000.00 from 5 River Street for the bill in question and to allow a One-Time-Only credit of \$847.33 for outside watering. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Board discussed that the service charges billed to each sewer account had not been charged correctly to the Treetop Condominiums account for 2 of their quarterly billing cycles. The service charge was \$25.00 in each of the 2 quarters but should have been \$1300.00 more for each quarter for a total of \$2600.00. Should the service charges be billed now? After discussion the Board agreed that the charges should be billed. A letter relating this information to the Association was signed. The water department will be contacted to make the adjustment to the account.

The sewer connection for 15 Evergreen Street was completed in April 2008. The connection date was not reported to the Sewer Commission office until December 2008. As a result of this delay the account was not billed as it should have been. A letter explaining the charges due for that period of time was reviewed and approved. The needed adjustment will be reported to the water department.

Lien releases, sewer fines and letters to property owners with expired deferrals were reviewed, approved and signed.

Mr. Vandal discussed that he had received a call today regarding a problem with the grinder pump at Gone Bananas at 45 Main Street. Although this is a commercial property and private pump, as a courtesy, Mr. Vandal went out to the property to see if the pump was working. Upon arrival he met with someone from the store and observed that the pump was working. He also was told that there are three sump pumps connected to it and that they run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Mr. Vandal felt that the illegal sump pump connections were overloading the grinder pump. He informed the store employee that the sump pump connections were illegal and that they needed to be disconnected immediately. A letter will be sent to the property owner asking that this be done immediately and that he contact Mr. Vandal to observe the work being done. Ms. Fiore asked that the property card be obtained to see how they list the buildings on the lot. Are there any other buildings connected that the Board doesn't know about?

Ms. Fiore discussed that the Board of Health is meeting with Mr. Geary, the owner of the business strip at 161 Summer Street, on March 9, 2009. They will be discussing that he has been connected to the sewer since October 10, 2007 but has failed to abandon the septic system. Ms. Fiore plans to attend this meeting.

The Board reviewed the capacity for RK Crossing. The original agreement was to allow ½ of the building to be connected to sewer in order to allow for a potential restaurant in the sewer portion of the building. The other ½ would remain retail space on septic until more capacity becomes available. If the building remains ½ on sewer and ½ on septic then there would be capacity for the 19 seat Dunkin Donuts and for a 48 seat restaurant in the sewer ½ of the building. The Board felt that RK Associates should abide by the original agreement which requires the Dollar Tree space to be connected to the sewer. They have not connected that space as was agreed upon.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Sean Walsh, to allow the 19 Seat Dunkin Donuts and a potential 48 seat restaurant space to be connected to the sewer part of the building/property and to require the connection of the Dollar Tree store to the sewer as was originally agreed upon. The other half of the building will remain retail space on the septic system. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Peter Cobb, to go into Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation. The Board will return to regular session at its conclusion. A roll call vote was taken resulting in all members voting in favor of the Executive Session.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Sean Walsh, to conclude the Executive Session and return to the regular session. A roll call vote was taken resulting in all members voting in favor of the motion.

The Board discussed the sewer lateral left on Crescent Street in Phase 2, for a house that is in the rear of a house directly on Crescent Street that was not serviced in Phase 1. Mr. Vandal has discussed the connection with Mr. Short and they agree that it is probably wise to install a new lateral in the correct location rather than try to connect to the lateral left down the street in the sidewalk next to the house in front. This will require a new connection into the sewer main on Crescent Street. Ms. Fiore asked Mr. Vandal to get an estimate for the cost of installing a new lateral.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Sean Walsh, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. The motion was so voted.

Suzanne Richards  
Administrative Assistant