

## **Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting December 6, 2023**

Agenda items may be taken out of order.

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Robert Sullivan, Tom Fournier, Jay Spahl, Justin Dolan, and George Patrinos.

In Attendance: Megan Stan, Joshua Gallant, Diane Ryan, and Joe Nierodzinski.

Scott opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a call to order, the meeting is being recorded.

### **Accept the Minutes from November 1, 2023:**

***Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from 11/1/2023, Justin seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.***

**8 Tanyard Rd- Diane Ryan:** Diane Ryan owns the property at 8 Tanyard Rd and her son lives there while he attends Nichols College. They moved her son out on May 10<sup>th</sup> and then returned to the house on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Some time during that time her hot water heater burst, and all the water was in the basement. She understands that the water went through the meter, and she is responsible for that amount, but she was looking to see if she could get an abatement for the sewer, as the water did not enter the sewer system. A discussion occurred over how much to abate; how much water did not enter the sewer.

***Tom made a motion to about the sewer bill for \$222.78 (4700 cubic ft), Bob seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Justin Dolan), vote passed 4-0-1.***

**1B Fairview Ave – Megan Stan and Joshua Gallant:** A new main was run to the foundation, and they are looking to see if they will have three separate lines going into the property with three separate meters. The property has three condos in one building. Bob questioned if it should have been three curb stops from the main, George stated they can run three separate lines off the main line coming into the basement. Megan asked if everyone had to hook up to town water or if they just can. George stated that they could hook up and no one else needed to. A discussion occurred, Scott stated that they will need to get permission to connect to the water system, if that is the way they decide to go. They stated that they were going to review costs and decide.

**Fairview Ave Easements:** (Agenda item taken out of order) Joe Niedorzinski from 17 Fairview Ave had some questions. He states that on 11/13-11/14 they work doing work on the easement for final grading. He mentioned and asked what was going on regarding the access road that had been discussed prior and they did not know. The next morning, he had a knock on the door and a worker from GEG was sent by Gil to give him a letter indemnifying them from anything. Joe went to Conservation regarding the access road and was told by Matt Mauro, the Conservation Agent, that if this has something to do with the easement the Town should be the one working on this and there is no charge to town. Joe also asked if they were done working on the easement.

Scott stated that he believes it has been landscaped and seeded, Joe agreed that it was done but there are still some parts of the stone wall that have not been put back. Scott stated that there will be a

punch list of items that still need to be completed. Joe asked if GEG was still doing the access road and putting the fill back.

Joe stated that this all started when the manhole was put in the wrong place and Gil stated that in lieu of moving the manhole he go and fill in and create an access road. Bob stated that it was Adriano who stated that he would do what you wanted because Bob was at that meeting regarding the manhole being in the wrong place and heard the conversation. Scott stated that we cannot do anything outside of the scope of the easement. Joe then asked if the fees to go through Conservation were his responsibility. Tom stated that if the contractor made the agreement with you, they would be responsible. Bob stated again that he recalls the conversation with Adriano saying he would do anything Joe wanted. Bob stated that Joe should contact Adriano at GEG regarding this and if they don't agree, then let the board know and the board would have them move the manhole at GEG's expense. Joe stated that back in September Gil said there was extra fill, and that work would still be done in the Spring. Is that a moot point at this time, do not know if Gil is planning to do this or not. Bob stated again that Joe should contact GEG and talk to them regarding this. Joe asked if there was going to be a final walkthrough, Scott replied yes there will be to generate a list of substantial completion. Joe then mentioned that at one of the meetings Jeff Faulkner mentioned that there would be a test pit completed and he never saw a test pit done to determine the depth of the pipe. Joe also stated that he is still looking for Specs for the project. Bob asked what exactly he wanted to know, and Joe stated the compaction, Joe stated that they have no idea what compaction is, lots of areas of road not correct. Scott stated that the Tighe and Bond Engineer has marked the areas on the roads that need to be corrected.

**Eisenhower Pump Station acceptance:** George stated that the town is looking to accept Eisenhower Drive as a town road and asked if the board is ready to accept the pump station. There is about \$10,000.00 left in escrow. George stated that we have about \$8000.00 in expenses, need new pumps, rails, and generator. A discussion occurred about the costs of bringing up to acceptance and that the quotes are from two years ago and costs have gone up. The Town Administrator has asked for a letter from the board of Water Sewer Commissioners verifying that they are ok with the amount in escrow. It was the consensus of the board to send a response back stating that the board cannot provide a letter at this time as we are still waiting for quotes and do not know the total cost. Once quotes are received and the total cost is known, then the board will know if can send a letter or not.

**Pot Ash Brook Interceptor report from Tighe and Bond:** received proposal from Tighe and Bond for a total cost of \$230,000.00 with a schedule starting in January to be able to go out to bid in one year from now and work to start in 2025. The issue at hand is that we do not have the money in our budget to cover the entire cost. We would be taking money from retained earnings and the only way to do that is at the Town Meeting. Bob stated that you cannot sign a contract if you do not have funding for it. A discussion occurred stated could split the contract up into one contract covering part and then a second contract for the other half to be paid after the town meeting. The discussion also brought in how Tighe and Bond are doing research up at Nichols and they are correcting a lot of issues that could have been creating some infiltration. Should we hold off on this until more results are known from Nichols College and wait till next fiscal year and budget for the project. Scott stated that he will not lift the sewer moratorium until an Engineer deems the problem resolved. The consensus was to table this till the next meeting.

**2024 Meeting Dates:** The list of 2024 meeting dates was reviewed.

***Tom made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.***

**Turn water on off fee:** It was presented that perhaps there needs to be a fee charged when we are shutting water off for winterizing or the season and then when we turn the water back on again. A discussion occurred, tabled until January agenda.

**Vehicle Upgrades:** Justin explained that Enterprise offers a lease program. You would need to have a list of what we have and what we want, and they will put together a proposal for you. There are some pros and cons to this, the cash flow is less. Bob stated he believes the Police Department is already doing this, we should talk to them and see if they like it. Discussion occurred, the consensus is for Justin to look further into this and discuss it again next month.

**Job Descriptions:** This is a placeholder to review job descriptions and be ready for Union negotiations. Scott will be meeting with the Town Administrator next week to discuss.

**Indirect Costs:** Scott has a meeting with the Town Administrator next week to discuss.

**Budget/Revenue Review:** Budget was reviewed. It was asked if next month could have amount of unpaid water sewer bills. Admin stated could have the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter commitments and how much has been collected at this time and what is outstanding and what has been has had a lien placed on it.

**Superintendent Report:** George presented his superintendent report and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Bob asked if work was done on the blending main? George stated no it was work done on the driveway, hydrant, and gate structure and that GEG came in a did a favor to help with that. Bob asked if that is the pipe that runs from Station #3 to Station #6. George said yes, it is. Bob stated that was done a year ago by Haluch and there are already hydrants and valves failing. This should not have happened. This is why we needed Engineering oversight on this project and since we had no Engineering oversight, who signed off on this project. Bob also asked if the Lead and Cooper was in compliance, and George stated yes it was in compliance.

**Public/Board Comments:** Jay asked if the GAC that is outside will be ready for operation during the winter and it was explained that as soon as the WTP is up and running that GAC will be disconnected and not used this winter and will be moved into WTP.

***Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bob seconded, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.***

**\*\*Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted on by the Board: \*\***

Posted agenda December 6, 2023, meeting at 6:30pm Room 321

Minutes from 11/1/2023

8 Tanyard Rd billing and usage history

Pot Ash Brook Interceptor Report

2024 Meeting Schedule

Budget and Revenues

Superintendent Report

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant