

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting December 1, 2021

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Jay Spahl, Tom Fournier, William Conley, George Patrinos, and Jennifer Cournoyer. Robert Sullivan joined the meeting at 6:50pm

Also in Attendance: Cody Parker and Krzysztof Rudnicki

Scott opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Accept the minutes of the November 3, 2021, public meeting: *Tom Fournier made a motion to accept the minutes of November 3, 2021, Jay Spahl seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

6 Fairfield Drive – Krzysztof Rudnicki- already connected to sewer but looking to connect another way: Krzysztof Rudnicki is having issues with his sewer pumps from his home which pumps up to Mason Rd. There are two pumps, and they are old, and no one wants to work on them, so he is looking at connecting another way to the sewer main. George Patrinos stated his house is the only one using ejector pumps. He is asking to drop a line into a manhole and the line would be gravity fed. He may need an easement over the neighbor's yard into the manhole which is in the neighbor's driveway. Krzysztof Rudnicki spoke with his neighbor, and he is good with it but would just need a legal easement. Jay Spahl asked if he could run the line down the gutter into the manhole to avoid the easement? Tom Fournier stated we don't want to get into another problem. Is it feasible to do it another way without an easement? Krzysztof Rudnicki said the manhole is about two feet away from his property line and the neighbor has no issues with it. Jay asked if a contractor has been contacted and his opinion, Mr. Rudnicki stated yes Bob Mason has been consulted with. Tom Fournier stated what about years from now? George Patrinos stated that it would be the responsibility of the owners to set up a legal easement.

A discussion occurred about the legality of private property and possibility of easements. They are not sure if the town already has an easement to the manhole, the manhole is located on the neighbor's property, but the town owns the manhole. The board wonders if there is already an easement, would like to reach out to Assessor's office for additional research on the easements.

Scott Zajkowski stated from our standpoint do we want this to be allowed to be done and go from there? Tom Fournier stated I think we need to find out about an easement. George Patrinos stated we will see if we can find out any information regarding previous easements. Scott Zajkowski stated that already connected so he is basically just looking to re-route another way and as long as there are no legal issues.

Bill Conley made a motion to approve the re-route and connection of the sewer line at 6 Fairfield Drive subject to clarification of legality and if an easement is needed, Jay Spahl seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

24 Oxford Ave – Permission to tie into water and sewer (permit expired): Cody Parker here representing the owner of the property. Looking to get permission to tie into water and sewer as a permit was previously granted and has expired. A discussion occurred as to location of the water main and where to tie in. The sewer is stubbed into property just looking for water.

Jay Spahl made a motion to give permission to 24 Oxford Ave to renew previous water and sewer permit to expire in one (1) year, Tom Fournier seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

153 West Main Street- question if cut/capped: A question was asked if when the property was demolished if the line was cut and capped. George Patrinos stated he was able to locate the curb stop which is still there and he has notified the property owner of such.

WTP Sewer Connection: Scott Zajkowski received a call from Derek from Tighe and Bond asking about process for obtaining a permit to connect to the sewer, process was explained, and this was tabled until next month when Tighe and Bond will have request ready.

List of 2022 Meeting Dates: A list was presented of 2022 monthly meeting dates to the Board, all fall on 1st Wednesday of the months. Will post meeting dates with Town Clerk.

Radio Study: Bob Sullivan stated that at one of the construction meetings it was discussed how the current radio system does not mesh with the SCADA system. We are looking at a study to see what the best system would be to work with what we have.

A discussion occurred about how a study would be done and if there normally would be a charge.

Accounts Payable response from Treasurer and Indirect Costs: Scott Zajkowski stated that legal counsel has been contacted and a zoom meeting was held with Town Counsel after the last commissioner's meeting, and we are awaiting a response from Town Counsel, and they are actively working on it.

Policy & Procedure Reviews: Tabled until next meeting.

Moratorium and Water Ban and By-Laws: Tabled until next meeting.

Superintendent Report: George Patrinos presented a report to the board. One item of mention is the department needs a new lawnmower. Four were presented, George Patrinos stated he was disappointed in what is out there. The amount of gas that the new mowers use is phenomenal. The mower he would like is a Kubota zero turn. Kubota is reliable and Ahearn is right up the road for service. George Patrinos is recommending the ZD12, Jay Spahl asked if he was looking for this for next spring? George Patrinos stated yes, and nothing is currently in stock with ordering into March.

Scott Zajkowski asked if this was in the procurement process, Bob Sullivan stated no, but the procurement rules you must take the lowest price when getting bids. This is where you want to spec out for a bid, it's just a matter of writing up the specific requirements you are looking for. Jay Spahl stated then you would take the spec sheet to 3 suppliers for bids. Bob Sullivan stated yes but you must spec out all the information. Jay Spahl stated he personally supports this, but it must be done correctly. Bob Sullivan stated yes, we must do it properly, contact three Kubota dealers for that machine and go with the lowest price, George Patrinos stated yes, we can do that. Scott Zajkowski stated yes, we just must do it properly.

Scott Zajkowski stated for information that the pad has been poured on Schofield Ave for the GAC vessel. Tentatively scheduled for delivery on December 7th, 2021, project is moving forward and could be up by mid-February.

On the Sewer side, George Patrinos stated Alton Drive was a good change order on the I & I. Also, Nichols is starting to camera. Susan and Budd have roots causing infiltration.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments: None

George's Yearly Review: George Patrinos' review was continued from last meeting.

Tom Fournier asked George where do you feel you are lacking? He stated that his computer skills are a little lacking and not a lot of time to get out and in the DEP world and into the office to check things. He feels he is strong with reports, personnel, and projects. He may not agree with the engineers a lot and sees a lot of foolishness of spending. When the projects are being done there is a balancing act right now.

Jay Spahl stated on that subject, everything used to be done in house and now we are in different world and things must be done differently.

Bob Sullivan said, I always said I am against SRF loans and now you understand why, the only benefit of this one was the 0% interest.

A discussion occurred about how George's is learning to work these situations.

Tom Fournier asked if he was looking to improve his computer skills? George Patrinos stated that there is no computer at the shop, and I would have to bump the admin off the computer at the office. Tom Fournier asked if it would benefit for the town to get a laptop and get your trained? Scott Zajkowski stated there should be a computer station for them to use. Bob Sullivan stated the designs for the WTP have a computer area for the primary operator. A discussion occurred about the need for a laptop and work area. Also discussed was the need for George to take a beginner excel class.

Scott Zajkowski stated the following objectives for George's review: Need to provide a laptop and better office space, employees professional development and to maintain appropriate personal time and delegate more. The overall evaluation was thoroughly competent.

Bob Sullivan stated we need to inquire from Town Counsel and the Town if there are scales to work with in giving a raise.

Tom Fournier made a motion to adjourn, Bob Sullivan seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant