

Tyngsborough Sewer Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2012, 6:00 pm
Location: Tyngsborough Town Hall, Inspectional Dept

Commissioners Attending: Jeff Hannaford, Gerry Foley, Fred Perrault
Also attending: Allen Curseaden, Superintendent, Caryn DeCarteret, Administrator
Matt Marro, Union Representative, Corey Lambert, Selectman

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hannaford at 6:03 PM.

Item 1) Citizens' Time

None

Approved 4/26/12

Item 2) Administrator Update (copy of report attached)

- 1) Discussed Tax Collector's request for determination of outstanding Sewer Fees, Interest and pending settlement for 92 Middlesex Road, SES Partners. The Tax Collector's reports regarding the property and the Certificates of Occupancy which are on file were reviewed by the Commissioners. It was noted that none of the Certificates of Occupancy were signed off by a Sewer Department representative. Jeff Hannaford will review and revise letter drafted by Gerry Foley.
- 2) Reviewed warrant from 8/11/11 for the Lowell Wastewater bill from May of 2011: It appears that the GLTHS's flow was not deducted from the Pawtucket Blvd flow which caused an overstatement of flow by 265,600 gallons equaling an overbilling of \$283.40. The Administrator will draft a letter to Lowell to request the matter to be reviewed. (copy of bill attached)
- 3) Minutes from 2/9/12 were reviewed (copy attached).
GF: Motion to approve minutes from 2/9/12 as written. GF: Second Motion passes 3-0-0
- 4) 10 Washington Street: Maureen from Deschenes and Farrell called looking for a Covenant Release for a closing on 10 Washington. There was not a Release in the file nor on the Registry of Deeds website, a Covenant Release for the property was prepared and a copy was given to the Attorney. (copy attached)
- 5) The letter to Dracut Sewer regarding required repairs at Lakeview Ave metering station was reviewed and approved to be sent. (copy attached) Brief discussion regarding responsibility for payment for required repairs and ownership of station.
- 6) Draft projects report and on call scheduled were reviewed. (copies attached)

Item 3) Superintendent's Update (copied from attached report)

- 1) Mascuppic Trail, Remove and replace the grinder unit in wet well Channel, while I was removing the used unit I received a shoulder Injury to my right arm (report filed) loss 3 days sick time
- 2) Crew pumped out all the valve pits and exercised the valves at all Our pump stations
- 3) Sequioa Ave pump 2 impeller jam removed pump and cleared reinstalled Test amp readings found to be within spec. Cleaned floats and inspected Wet well
- 4) Returned to Mascuppic Trail and inspected the lighting system in the wet Well area (three lights not working) these are explosion proof the mounting base and light assembly are corroded and will need to be replaced.
- 5) Prepared the return grinder mounted on skid and prepared paper work UPS Fright picked up the pallet (we were able to have Lowell Janitor services load it up with their fork truck)

- 6) Phalanx Station Electric heater blower motor failed removed and brought to the shop. Removed the motor and will drop at Chelmsford Electric for repair.
- 7) Paul and Bill have been working at the stations on general inspections And preventive care. Flints Conner and Bridge Meadow have been completed
- 8) I am going to prepare plans for Bridgeview pump station for weather protection for the water system. During the cold weather if the generator comes on line it pulls outside air though the building and has frozen the pipes in the past. We will install two walls and close the area of concern
- 9) Elm St Station the PLC is calling in two pumps at different times we have performed a system check and also verified the elevation of the float secondary control and are still having the problem. I have contacted Weston & Sampson to have them check and see what their thoughts are
- 10) Note all pump stations are inspected every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday's and Thursday's is set aside for scheduled maintenance

Item 4) Correspondence

None

Approved 4/26/12

Item 5) Complaints

A call from Whitman Woods @ Maple Ridge was received by the Superintendent regarding user fees. The Manager of the complex was advised to come to the next Sewer Commission meeting on 3/8/12 to discuss.

Item 6) New Business

Gerry Foley informed the Commission that there was an upcoming MCPPO 4 day course and thought it would be advantageous for the Administrator to attend.

Item 7) Old Business

- a) Status of Superintendants compliance with Feb. 14, 2012 letter (copy attached):

In attendance: Matt Marro as Union representative.

Item 1) agreed to be in compliance

Item 2) withdrawn by Commissioners

Item 3) agreed to be in compliance: Superintendent Allen Curseaden has been submitting bi-weekly reports to the office for review at the Sewer Commission meetings.

Item 4) agreed to be in compliance: see Administrator's Report Item 6 and copy of attached on-call schedule

Item 5) Matt Marro spoke about the Superintendent Curseaden's job description and offer letter where the use of the vehicle provided by the Sewer Commission was considered a benefit as taxes are paid on the use. Gerry Foley spoke to the issue of vehicle identification. Matt Marro offered that the issue of identification could easily be agreed to and remedied by using magnetic signs. The issue of blue plates can cause a problem when the vehicle is used outside of Sewer business due to the fact that citizens can confuse the vehicle for a police vehicle. Matt felt that blue plates would be unnecessary, if the vehicle was identified by the proposed magnetic signs. Jeff Hannaford asked for a definition of use of the vehicle as outlined in the offer letter. Matt Marro indicated that there is no definition, the offer letter was reviewed by all in attendance and determined that there was no clear indication of what was or was not allowed for use. Superintendent Curseaden indicated that he was in agreement with the identification by means of the magnetic signs. Fred Perrault spoke to the fact that other communities utilize blue plates. Matt Marro again stated that he felt strongly that the magnetic signs would be sufficient identification. Gerry Foley offered that it might be a good idea for the Board of Selectmen to weigh in on the issue. Both Matt Marro and Superintendent Curseaden agreed to that suggestion. Fred Perrault and Jeff Hannaford felt that it was a Sewer Commission issue and did not require an opinion from the Board of Selectmen. Superintendent Curseaden asked what the basis for insisting on blue plates was stemming from. Gerry Foley indicated that there had been some complaints.

1) Has Superintendent Curseaden while using a Sewer vehicle ever used a radar gun with oncoming traffic?
AC: NO, never.

2) Has Superintendent Curseaden ever stopped a contractor from working while driving a Sewer vehicle?
AC: No, he did however inquire and inform the Conservation Director of a contractor working in an area he

thought the Conservation Director should be aware of. Matt Marro then spoke as Conservation Director and indicated that never once in the six years that he has worked for the Town of Tyngsborough had Superintendent Curseaden stopped work on a project on Conservation's behalf.

3) Has Superintendent Curseaden ever worn Nation Grid uniforms while on Sewer Business?

AC: During the storm in Oct of 2011, he was helping to divert and control traffic while National Grid was trying to repair downed lines, but it was after hours and the National Grid crew that was working specifically asked him to wear a hard hat which they provided him, for safety.

Superintendent Curseaden informed the Commission that he felt that if there were ever complaints regarding his actions or performance that they should have been brought to his attention when the complaints were lodged. Gerry Foley indicated that they were never brought to his attention before because they were never substantiated.

Matt Marro as Union Rep asked the Commission if all issues outlined in their letter dated 2/14/12 had been satisfied. The Commission agreed that the items, with the exception of Item #2 (Union business during Sewer business hours, which was being withdrawn) and Item #5 (blue plates) were resolved and/or addressed. Fred Perrault reiterated that he felt that the vehicle should have blue plates, to which Jeff Hannaford agreed. Gerry Foley again stated that he thought the Selectmen should be consulted. Matt Marro indicated that if the Commission insisted on blue plates that it would have to go to collective bargaining as it would be changing Superintendent Curseaden's contract due to the reasonable use doctrine based on past history. He also indicated that there would be a grievance filed and the next available time to submit it would not be until the next contract opening. Gerry Foley indicated that the plate issue was based on the fear of liability. To which Superintendent mentioned that the magnetic signs should relieve the fear.

b) 92 Middlesex Road connection fee: See Administrator's Report Item 1.

Item 8) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:23 pm was made by Gerry Foley. The motion was seconded by Fred Perrault. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Approved 4/26/12