Commissioners Meeting

April 2, 2018

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Mark Moschetti, Chairman Thomas Jeleniewski, Member Robert Dennis, Member

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Chairman, Mark Moschetti and Robert Dennis. Also present were Superintendent, Kent Songer and Administrative Assistant, Carol Osborne.

Minutes from the previous meetings in February & March were reviewed and signed.

Mr. Moschetti opened discussion on a need to schedule a rate change meeting. Kent explained that it had already been scheduled and posted in the paper. Much discussion was held on what the increase should be. Kent told the Commissioners that the Sewer Department has over $900,000 in retained earnings and felt a small increase should be enough. Discussion was also held on placing a betterment charge or raising rates. Mr. Moschetti felt customers would rather have an increase than a betterment charge placed on their homes. Kent felt the Board needs to have a plan for future increases for our customers and for Sewer Plant operations so repairs can be covered or for problems that may arise. Mr. Moschetti also felt a plan was needed for updates and repairs that arise because many stations and equipment are getting old. It was also noted that we would need to pay our percentage of Gardner’s upgrades as agreed upon in our agreement with them. Mr. Dennis questioned what the interest rate to Gardner would be and if we had to pay a lump sum or make payments. After discussing more of our budget, Mr. Moschetti suggested a 3% increase. It was then voted unanimously to raise the rates 3% effective July 1, 2018.

Discussion was held on Carol’s past sick time benefits. Carol is considered full time by the Sewer Department but not by the town administrator who considers her a part time employee. Mr. Dennis suggested a meeting with the selectmen to hash this out, but Mr. Moschetti said the selectmen feel this is the town administrator’s job that he was hired to do and do not want to discuss it. Kent felt the Commissioners shouldn’t cave in to the town administrator and the board should fight this. Mr. Moschetti explained that the selectmen gave the town administrator the power to handle people’s hours and benefits. Mr. Moschetti spoke with one of the selectmen and didn’t get anywhere to obtain Carol’s retroactive pay. He felt very puzzled on what the next step should be. Mr. Dennis felt as a Board it should be put in writing and sent to the selectmen. Kent explained this had already been done and he sent each selectmen individually the problem and had gotten nowhere with this situation. He also explained he is worried about the budget for the coming year as the town administrator has already changed some of the amounts he had figured. Kent stated we need to be concerned what the town will charge the Sewer Department for indirect costs if they do start doing the Sewer Plant collections and billing. It was also discussed that our computer system will not by compatible with the new system the town is implementing.

The DEP I & I Study was discussed. It was explained that every sewer system in the state is supposed to do an overflow study that would be very costly. Kent explained we do not have a problem and doing this study would not pertain to us since there is no overflow problem here. Kent said if need be, we should contact our representative and senators to explain that we have no problem and to do this study would be a waste of money for the Sewer Department and would give us no constructive results. Kent and the Board are hoping we do not have to complete this study.

Holly at the selectmen’s office has the title for the old car but cannot find the one for the truck. She will apply for a new title for the truck. The car had been cleaned out and will be put up for sale on muni-bid.

It has not been decided who is going to do the concrete work at the Pleasant Street Pump Station. The Engineer if hoping to hear from United Concrete this week to see if they will do the concrete work.

The budget was discussed and Kent informed the Commissioners we were just billed three more months of insurance and dental from the town. Kent & Carol answered questions the Commissioners had about the budget concerning liens and transfers.

Kent told the Commissioners that on April 17, 2018 there will be a pay rec meeting about Pleasant Street.

Kent told the Commissioners he received a notice from one of the selectmen asking why collections have not been moved to the town hall. The Commissioners are concerned about our collections and feel the town hall employees have enough handling what they do now for the town hall. More discussion was held concerning the budget and dealing with the town concerning the budget. It seems to be getting more difficult for the Board of Commissioners dealing with the town administrator and the selectmen concerning the Sewer Department’s budget.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

The next Commissioner’s meeting will be held May 7, 2018.

Submitted by Kathleen Webster from a recording.

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