

Sewer and Water Minutes

August 1, 2023

Present: Peter Socha, Don Schneyer, John Loiodice, Tony Campetti, Mike Buffoni and Jennifer Carmichael

Don asked for a motion to approve June 13th minutes and John moved to approve them as presented and Peter seconded, all were in favor.

Park Street pump station update: Tony discussed the progress; The wet well was installed and the valve vault will be installed by the end of the week and both back filled before the week is over. They are on track for a mid-October finish.

Review format on sewer & water bills: The Treasurer/Collector asked to add a line to the sewer and water bills to increase payments to give to the Elderly & Disabled or Scholarship Fund which would be optional. Final read fee: Done when a property is sold, \$25 if only have either sewer or water and this fee is split \$12.50 each if the property has both sewer and water. All three Commissioners agreed to keep the cost of the final read the same.

Commitment process for sewer & water: In the past the Collector signed the commitment; the Town Administrator suggested the way the public utility is that the Commissioners should sign to approve the warrant and that would go to the collector from the Commissioners saying they have approved the commitment and to go ahead send the bills out and collect the monies.

Mike had an abatement for 18 Pine Street new meter reading was read incorrectly by the software. The Commissioners all signed off to give the abatement.

Beth Laster Nathan from the Lake Drive Association had come in front of the Commissioners in August of 2021 asked the Commissioners to continue to think about sewer coming down Lake Drive as the master plan is being created. Tony mentioned the Sewer needs analysts article presented at the May Town meeting; the Town Administrator has signed a contract with DPC Engineering. They are currently starting to look at all un-sewered areas in town and hopefully around November they will present their findings to Tony.

Yale Hill Sewer: A section of the line failed, Tony had a contractor come in and dig about 16 feet and replace with new pipe. The pipe was estimated to be from the early 1900s as it was clay piping and there will be more issues up there with the clay pipes.

The Sewer plant held up well with the large amounts of rain we've had and no emergencies.

Progress on Town meeting Articles: Mike has 2 bids for painting the interior of the treatment plant and waiting for the third. When he has 3 bids, he will give them to the town administrator. The last two analyzers for the treatment plant are here and Mike will start to swap them out. They will be mounted and put out by the filters. Gate valves will be put in when the ground water subsides some. Tony has the sewer needs analysis signed by the town administrator and

should start soon. The phase 4 of the I N I project contract with DPC is signed. The sledge pump is still in the decision process. Glendale sewer project has one joint that needs to be replaced or cleaned; this could be done robotically inside the pipe so they wouldn't have to dig down 10 feet. Mike also mentioned the master plan for the water system, he has met with the engineer and they removed the privately owned items from the plan. Mike hopes to have something in the next few weeks.

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee: John updated the Commissioners the algae alarm was a none issue and the Town Administrator is working on purchasing equipment to test for algae blooms. They are still dealing with the harvester and have people to run it. Mike, Tony and Mark are keeping track of the beach looking great.

Hydrants were painted and look great through Berkshire Sheriff's Dept.

Don mentioned Housatonic Water Company raising the rates 50% to 120% and Stockbridge has residents who use the water from them. Metering in Stockbridge has improved the water usage. Housatonic Water Co. does not have the whole town to help support any upgrades as they are a privately owned company so the rates are their only source of income.

Peter motioned to adjourn and John seconded, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Carmichael

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