

**CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2015 3:30 p.m.
Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 3:30

Commissioners present: Janine Bean, Michael Digregorio

Others present: Gregg Quint- Superintendent, Chief Solomon, and Amy Snow-Municipal Bookkeeper

Public present: Thomas Bucu

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Mr. Digregorio made a motion to approve items A through H, motion seconded by Mrs. Bean; motion passed 2-0-0.

- A. Ratify A/P Manifests for checks signed out of session dated 11/1/2015
- B. Ratify two (2) A/P Manifests and sign checks dated 11/12/2015
- C. Ratify Weekly Payroll for checks signed out of session for period ending 11/1/2015
- D. Ratify Monthly Payroll for checks signed out of session for period ending 10/31/2015
- E. Ratify Monthly Elected Officials Payroll for checks signed out of session for period ending 10/31/2015
- F. Ratify Weekly Payroll for checks signed out of session for period ending 11/30/2015 for K. Boutilier's vacation checks
- G. Ratify Monthly Payroll for checks signed out of session for period ending November and December for J. Bean
- H. Ratify Weekly Payroll and sign checks for week ending 11/8/2015

Mrs. Bean signed the Superintendent's and Fire Chief's time sheets.

The approval of the Meeting Minutes dated October 29, 2015 was tabled until Mr. Quirk is at a meeting.

Mr. Digregorio made a motion to approve a release of funds from the Fire and Rescue Trust fund to pay for the new ambulance and stretcher, Mrs. Bean seconded the motion; motion passed 2-0-0.

BOC INFORMATION

The commissioners reviewed a change order on the sewer project, the letter from ISO rating our Fire Department a 4 and 4Y, and CVFD's tax rate. We went up 32 cents to \$3.46 per thousand. Discussion ensued.

FIRE CHIEF'S BUSINESS

Chief Solomon presented an abatement request for a patient that lost his Medicare in the amount of \$1928.00. Discussion ensued around him going to the town for help. **Mrs. Bean made a motion to approve the \$1928.00 as recommended by the chief and ask him to go to the town to see if there is any help either for that or future ones, Mr. Digregorio seconded the motion; motion passed 2-0-0.**

Chief Solomon presented a quote to repair the fire station insulation in the roof. He explained that there is a hole in the plastic and the blown in insulation was lying on the ceiling tiles and there is only about R16 insulation up there. Discussion ensued. **Mr. Digregorio made a motion to direct the chief to have the repair done by Superior Insulation for \$680.00, Mrs. Bean seconded the motion; motion passed 2-0-0.** Mr. Digregorio asked the chief to clarify what the quote was for and exactly how he is going to repair it.

SUPERINTENDANT'S BUSINESS

The superintendent present two sewer abatements due to leaks, **Mr. Digregorio made a motion to abate \$141.50 for 128 White Mountain Hwy, Mrs. Bean seconded the motion; motion passed 2-0-0.**

Mr. Digregorio made a motion to abate \$24.62 for Mr. Jones, Mrs. Bean seconded the motion; motion passed 2-0-0.

The superintendent and Amy presented a draft warrant article for a meter replacement program. The useful life of meters is about 20 years and the first ones were installed in 2002. The schedule that is proposed is attached. Discussion ensued. Mr. Digregorio questioned going back to flat rates to avoid replacing meters, Mrs. Bean stated that is part of doing business and that no federal funds were forthcoming without meters. The chief suggested just replacing them as they die and putting it in the operating budget. Amy explained that this is the worst case scenario – we need to budget for the worst in case large numbers need to be replaced in one year. Mr. Quint stated that this is just the tip of the iceberg there are manholes that need replacing as well. Amy then handed out a synopsis of what is coming down the pike – attached. Amy asked what day the commissioners would prefer to sign the closing papers and they decided December 17 but the papers will be dated January 15th. More discussion on the synopsis ensued. When talking about North Rd. Mr. Digregorio questioned whether the town was going to help with rebuild of the road and consensus was that Dave Mercier was supposed to talk to Paul Degliangeli about this. Mrs. Bean noted that the \$149,000 for the Pequawket Dr. Sewer Designs is the EPA grant we got quite a few years ago. The chief worked out that the sewer debt works out to \$2.62/ thousand based on today's valuation. Mrs. Bean was thinking that she would like to get rid of the demand fees for water. Amy stated that trying to figure out who should not be charged is a way more complicated than she ever thought it would be. There are many ways to look at who should be charged a demand fee and who shouldn't, her feelings were usage would be the easiest way – decide on a cut-off amount like 35,000 gallons per quarter but she stated that this is not a good time to start taking revenues away.

Amy then presented a list of properties that have sprinklers and who is paying the \$50 sprinkler fee (attached). Discussion ensued around the history of why this is being charged and what other districts do. Mr. Quint stated that Steve Anderson is getting certified next week and they looked into the equipment needed. Mr. Digregorio suggested that the price should include something like the backflow test that we provide. The question came up as whether CVFD can tell people that we are doing the testing ourselves, however we can't tell them who to get to install it. Mr. Quint stated that the properties that do not have RPZs have three years to get them installed due to the magnitude of the price. Mrs. Bean suggested a letter be sent to those people giving them six months to comply.

Chief Solomon left the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Rates increases/decreases were discussed. Mrs. Bean said that sewer demand fees were put in place to cover O&M and debt service. She stated that for all these years everyone has been paying taxes for sewer debt because we were putting sewer in for everyone. She said we are never going to have build sewer again but we will have to maintain it. She does not think that the demand fee will be going to infrastructure any more only to O&M Mr. Quint stated that we will only ever have 76% of the district sewer, so 25% will never have sewer. Mrs. Bean wants to know how many people get water only – those that pay taxes toward sewer debt that are not getting sewer. How much of the debt service is paid by the 25%. Mr. Digregorio asked why Pequawket is not getting done and he was told Rural Development would not approve it. Mr. Bucu added that a pump station was needed as well because Pequawket is so low.

Mrs. Bean talked about that winter is coming and it is unwritten policy that people do not get shut off in the winter. Mr. Quint stated that the people who don't pay are riding on other's nickels for the winter until we are allowed to shut them off. Shut offs are scheduled for December 1. Her feeling is that we don't shut them off in the winter because they can't get water anywhere else. Mr. Quint stated that we have never had anyone go over three days without water. He would like to be able to shut them off and if they have not paid by December 3rd we can make arrangements and turn them back on.

Amy explained that even if people can't pay, all they have to do to keep from being shut off is contact the office, we will work with people to keep their water on. When the schedule is messed with, people get mad. We have a policy, we have a system that works and consistency is huge. Mrs. Bean wants to make sure that people are turned on for the winter. She wants the office to call if we don't hear from people. Mr. Digregorio wants door hangers when we turn off the people and wants a report for the December 3rd meeting.

OLD AND PENDING

Mrs. Bean wanted to wait until Mr. Quirk was in attendance before discussing side walk turn over. Mr. Digregorio felt that he did not learn anything he continually said the wrong number. Mrs. Bean said she feels that the town took over North Conway sidewalks and everyone in town paid to have those sidewalks rebuilt. Discussion ensued around Kearsarge Lighting District and the turning off of lights in town.

Mrs. Bean brought up the Pollard Street sidewalk and stated she felt we don't need a sidewalk on Pollard St. Mr. Digregorio said he would not vote to put sidewalks on Pollard St. and he would not put it in our budget. Mrs. Bean listed many streets that do not have sidewalks. Mr. Digregorio is looking at all debt coming down the pike.

Mr. Quint handed Mrs. Bean his draft capital improvements plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bucu, working with the Chief, put a bill in to allow ambulances to bill auto insurance and Republican Gene Chandler signed on to it. Mr. Digregorio wants our elected officials to understand that they are there for us, the taxpayers and they need to support these bills. Mr. Bucu wants to delete sections 2, 3, and 4 which prevents billing by ambulance services.

Mr. Bucu also put forth HB 376 which got retained and killed last week. This bill is regarding funding for our sewer (and other district's) project. Mr. Bucu explained the status of districts waiting for money (247,000 for us). We still need to send in the paper work once we close the loan to even get on the delayed and deferred list. We are not in the 2016/17 budget and Mr. Bucu does not think we will get in this budget. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Digregorio's trip to the hearing in Concord. Mr. Bucu is putting his bill in front of the people in Concord to keep it alive. He told us the Karen Umberger cosponsored the bill and then voted against it. They refunded projects already being paid but did not approve any new projects. Mr. Bucu presented HB 2:

276:116 Department of Environmental Services; Aid to Municipalities for Water Pollution Control. Amend RSA 486:1, I(a) to read as follows:

I.(a) The state of New Hampshire shall ~~in addition to any federal grant made available under the provisions of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (or subsequent amendments thereof),~~ pay annually 20 percent of the annual amortization charges, meaning principal and interest, on the ~~original~~ **eligible** costs resulting from the acquisition and construction of sewage disposal facilities by municipalities (meaning counties, cities, towns, or village districts), in accordance with RSA 485:8, RSA 485-A:4, IX, and RSA

485-A:4, XII, for the control of water pollution. The word "construction" shall include engineering services, in addition to the construction of new sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, intercepting sewers, and sewer separation by storm drains when the latter can be demonstrated as a cost-effective method for eliminating a combined sewer overflow structure; the altering, improving or adding to existing treatment plants, pumping stations, intercepting sewers, and sewer separation by storm drains when the latter can be demonstrated as a cost-effective method for eliminating a combined sewer overflow structure; provided the construction has been directed by the department, or constitutes a voluntary undertaking designed to control or reduce pollution in the surface waters of the state as defined in RSA 485-A:2, and the plan therefor is approved in compliance with the provisions of RSA 485:8, RSA 485-A:4, IX, and RSA 485-A:4, XII. The term "eligible costs" as used in this ~~section~~ **chapter, except as noted**, shall mean the entire cost of the construction of treatment plants, pumping stations, intercepting sewers and sewer separation by storm drains as defined in the Clean Water Act of 1977, **less any other grant or subsidy. Cash payments, net of any other grant or subsidy, made by municipalities toward eligible costs shall also be eligible for state contributions in accordance with this section.**

276:117 State Aid Grants; Department of Environmental Services. Notwithstanding RSA 486, or any other law to the contrary, for the biennium ending June 30, 2017, a moratorium shall be in place on state aid grants for any new infrastructure projects that would have otherwise been eligible for state aid grants under RSA 486, RSA 486-A, or RSA 149-M, with the exception that infrastructure projects that had local authorization by December 31, 2008 to construct, but were not listed in 2013, 144:101, continue to be eligible for state aid grants subject to availability of funding. Nothing in this section shall affect the provision of the future water supply land protection grants under RSA 486-A if funding is available for such purposes.

Mr. Digregorio wants to know how many of our local reps were on this HB 376 and wants to know why not if they weren't. Amy was directed to write a letter to all the local reps to find out where they stand on this bill. The bill will be voted on again in January.

The meeting was adjourned without objection 5:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Snow