

Dimondale/Windsor Wastewater Treatment Plant

SEWER BOARD MINUTES

January 21, 2010

7:02 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Blair.

Roll Call

Present: Blair, Chappell, Reznick, Stiles

Absent: Slucter

Blair mentioned that Slucter was unavailable for the meeting due to travel. Stiles explained that he will be unable to attend the February meeting due to travel.

Also Present: Denise Parisian, Village Manager; Mike Spitler, WWTP Operator; Steve Hughes, Hughes Inc.; Betsy Kelly, Recording Secretary; Jim Hein, audience.

Treasurer's Reports/Bills

Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to accept the treasurer's report for December 17, 2009 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Chappell, second Stiles, to accept the treasurer's report for January 21, 2010 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to approve payment of \$22,044.78 for December 17, 2009 bills. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Stiles, to approve payment of \$44,481.75 for January 21, 2010 bills. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Open to the Public

No comments were received.

Superintendent's Report

Spitler reported that recent repairs at the N. Creyts Rd. lift station appear to have remedied the problems which contributed to the high emergency call volume experienced at the station over the last five years. Steve Hughes provided an overview of the past few years' accomplishments and described the goals for Hughes Inc. for the coming year.

Old Business

1. Spitler stated that research revealed it is not common practice at other waste water treatment plants to wear a mask while raking debris from the screens. Hughes supported wearing protective covering while cleaning ditches but reiterated that it is not normal practice while raking. Discussion followed regarding safe practices to keep employees healthy, including Hepatitis shots. Parisian noted that a draft of the safety procedures and policies is in process and should be available for the February or March meeting.
2. Parisian questioned the direction the Board would like to take regarding the potential change to the Table of Equivalent Unit Factors considering that research has revealed a lack of alternative rates for restaurants. The Members agreed that there is no basis for a rate change and directed staff to communicate this decision to the owners of Jackie's Restaurant.
3. Parisian explained that the Village Council approved the budget amendment for the radio alarm system and that Steve Hughes and Mike Spitler were prepared to answer any additional questions. Blair questioned whether the Township Board should also approve amendments to the budget. Parisian stated that this has not previously occurred but that amendments could be made available for the Township Board if desired. She emphasized that the amendment to purchase the radio alarms in the current fiscal year replaces the previous plan to replace the auto rake next year.
4. Parisian questioned whether a permit should be pulled for the upgrade to the sewer main crossing the Grand River and Bridge St. lift station upgrade project. Discussion followed regarding the length of time to obtain a permit; the benefits of proceeding versus waiting; the process for permitting under emergency conditions; and borrowing

money. Reznick questioned the benefit of stabilizing the pipe as an interim project which would also require a permit and have costs attached. Reznick will contact Don Heck at Wolverine to discuss this option. The members agreed to delay applying for the project permit while "stabilization" is researched.

New Business

1. Parisian presented the 2010-11 draft budget for member review noting that the numbers are the same as those presented in the rate study at the November 2009 meeting. Motion by Chappell, second Stiles, to forward the 2010-11 draft budget to the Dimondale Village Council and the Windsor Township Board of Trustees with a recommendation for approval. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to forward a recommendation to the Dimondale Village Council and the Windsor Township Board to raise the monthly sewer charge to \$30.00 per RE effective March 1, 2010. Motion carried.
2. Blair introduced an energy usage analysis from Jim Hein for member consideration. Discussion followed regarding lowering peak periods at the WWTP; the potential advantage of employing a Fluke meter to monitor usage; the use of space heaters in the lift stations; the metering system at the Ball facility; and setting up a data base to graph actual past usage based upon Consumers Energy bills. Hughes agreed to work with Hein and Spitzer to investigate the potential to lower the peak day rate. Blair will research the various components of the Consumers bill/rate and staff agreed to pull together a usage history and to research more efficient space heaters and the metering system for Ball Grease Trap.
3. Blair reported that residents of Brooks River Landing approached Windsor Township regarding problems with the existing system employed by the development for waste water disposal. Blair noted that the residents are investigating the costs of all options including possible entry to the public sewer system. He stated that the residents were directed to Wolverine Engineers for a feasibility study and that this will be discussed at the next Township Board meeting. Discussion followed regarding the scope of the study and the options presented; the process for directing residents to the proper board for the most efficient use of time and resources; and the need to include the WWTP Superintendent and the Village administration in any discussions regarding the sewer system. Village representatives and the WWTP Superintendent will attend the Township Board meeting for informational purposes.

Motion by Reznick second Stiles, to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:36 p.m.