

**SEWER BOARD MINUTES**

March 18, 2010

7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Blair.

**Roll Call**

Present: Blair, Chappell, Reznick, Slucter, Stiles

Absent: none

Also Present: Denise Parisian, Village Manager; Mike Spitler, WWTP Operator.

**Treasurer's Report/Bills**

Motion by Slucter, second Chappell, to accept the treasurer's report for February 28, 2010 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to approve payment of \$29,936.09 for February 28, 2010 bills. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2010 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Open to the Public**

No comments were received.

**Superintendent's Report**

Spitler reported that the SCADA system upgrade is almost complete and will come in approximately \$2,000.00 under budget. He also noted that the new system is generating significant data on how the pumps at the lift stations are running.

**Old Business**

1. Blair introduced the draft language for the WWTP Safety Policies and Procedures for member review. Spitler explained that the document is a compilation of Mr. Stiles' safety procedures and samples from MIOSHA. Parisian suggested that the members review the document and be prepared to offer feedback at the next meeting. Slucter questioned whether the attorney should review the document and if the Board should be the approving body or whether that should be the responsibility of management. Discussion followed regarding potential liability related to this question.
2. Blair presented a cost estimate from Wolverine Engineers regarding stabilization of the pipe in the Grand River. Discussion followed regarding the \$12,000 price tag for the project; the status of the pipe; and inclusion of the pipe replacement project in the Capital Improvement Plan. Parisian explained that the design is complete for the project and the permit application is ready but has not been submitted. The Members agreed to shelve the pipe stabilization plan and delay permitting the project until planned unless an emergency situation arises.
3. Spitler provided a calculation to develop a rate for new septage haulers at the WWTP noting that the formula is based upon the product treated from ACE Rentals in comparison to regular residential users and measures the level of solids. Spitler explained that the resulting rate would be 10 cents per gallon to treat the septage in a break even scenario and that this charge is double what other plants are assessing. Discussion followed regarding how other plants develop rates; charging haulers based upon test results; and the lack of interest from septage haulers at this time. Reznick suggested comparing other components and generating an average "cost". Parisian suggested that staff perform more research on developing a rate following Reznick's recommendation.
4. Spitler stated that a discussion with Crampton Electric revealed that there would not be a significant cost savings to switch to 220V space heaters for the lift stations because there would not be a measurable reduction in wattage used. Discussion followed regarding higher efficiency and capital costs. Spitler reported on the meeting between himself, Hughes Inc. and Jim Hein regarding maximum demand and peak usage rates at the WWTP. He noted that for the past two years in June and July the spike in consumption has been significant. Spitler has started to track different aspects

of the usage and Blair offered to contact Consumers Energy for information about conditions in the surrounding area during the time of the spikes. Discussion followed regarding power outages and the effect on the demand when power is restored plus the possibility of purchasing a meter and software for the SCADA system to track power usage throughout the plant. Staff will continue to track current trends and report back in ninety days.

5. No new information was presented on the request for service from Brooks River Landing. Parisian noted that Spitler met with Don Heck and asked the members if they would like to begin discussion of the technical aspects of the request. Blair declined.

6. Blair led the group through a review of the Joint Agreement between the Village of Dimondale and Windsor Township. Discussion followed regarding the budgeting time frame; distribution of the quarterly financial statements and engaging in an annual review of insurance coverage.

7. Blair initiated a discussion on the request to allow a second public session at the end of the Sewer Board meeting. Blair noted that such a change would require an amendment to the bylaws. Slucter suggested that the Chairperson could simply allow a second public session as a courtesy to any public in attendance. Blair noted that this change could be included with a later amendment to the bylaws.

### **New Business**

1. Parisian presented the Meetings Proceedings Resolution for the Dimondale/Windsor Sewer Board and explained that this resolution establishes the time and place of meetings and the legal posting locations for the public's information. Discussion followed regarding adding other posting locations; the current obligation to hold monthly meetings; and the process for cancelling meetings. Blair will consult Butler and Towsley for input on other posting locations.

### **Open to the Public**

Hein commented on the importance of bringing septage haulers into the plant for revenue and questioned the source of the savings on the installation of the SCADA system. Spitler explained that a smaller tower at the plant and the internal installation of antennae, eliminating the need to construct exterior housing, at the lift stations accounted for the cost reduction.

Motion by Reznick second Stiles, to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:15 p.m.