

Dimondale/Windsor Wastewater Treatment Plant

SEWER BOARD MINUTES

November 18, 2010

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

Roll Call

Present: Chappell, Reznick, Slucter, Stiles

Absent: Blair

Also Present: Denise Parisian, Village Manager; Mike Spitler, WWTP Operator; Betsy Kelly, Recording Secretary.

Treasurer's Report/Bills

Motion by Slucter, second Reznick, to accept the treasurer's report for November 18, 2010 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Stiles, to approve payment of \$15,794.50 for November 18, 2010 bills. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Reznick, second Stiles, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Open to the Public

No comments were received.

Superintendent's Report

Spitler stated that there is nothing new to report that is not already on the agenda.

Old Business

1. Parisian presented a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for member consideration noting that she would like the opportunity to review the document with Blair to make sure that all areas have been covered. Slucter suggested adding the language "right to accept all bids whether or not satisfactory". Discussion followed regarding the scope of the project; time constraints on staff at this point and delaying action on this item until after January 1, 2011. The Members agreed that this work could be performed after the first of the year. Parisian will follow-up with Blair.
2. Parisian presented a cover letter from the LCC student interested in partnering with the WWTP for a work study program. Parisian stated that the insurance company would consider her to be a volunteer for liability purposes and that a workers' compensation waiver will be signed. Discussion followed regarding the number of hours per week and the types of activities the student will perform. Parisian stated that it is her intent to accept the proposal unless there is an objection. The Members concurred.

New Business

1. Ryan Tyler, 132 Hamilton St., spoke regarding a sewer issue at his residence. Tyler stated that he called Spitler to mark the sewer lead on his property and claimed that during the course of the conversation Spitler advised him to replace the entire sewer line serving the house and that eventually it was determined that a root plug in the sewer main was causing his problems. Tyler requested reimbursement for the expense of replacing his line. Spitler stated that on November 2, 2010, Tyler requested that the sewer lead for 132 Hamilton Street be marked because he was preparing to replace the sewer line. Spitler noted that a discussion then occurred regarding the location of the lead currently serving the property on Hamilton Street. Spitler noted that he did provide Tyler with information to contact Eaton County for permits and information regarding plumbing requirements but at no time did he give any type of recommendation for replacement. Parisian interjected that the ordinance states it is the property owner's responsibility to diagnose problems and to prove that the issue is within the municipality's portion of the line. Spitler described the events of November 5, 2010: he was called by the contractor to document the new line before it was covered; later he was contacted by the contractor because there was standing water in the lateral line; he returned to the site, pulled the man hole covers and verified that the main was flowing;

the contractor subsequently informed him that the lateral line was exposed and had roots in it and that the main also appeared to have roots blocking the line. Spitler then contacted Hilliard to address the situation in his absence. Hilliard called Michigan Plumbing to remove the roots from the main. Slucter questioned where the roots originated and Spitler stated they were from Tyler's trees and entered through the lead which is within the home owner's portion of the system. Tyler contended that the roots came into his lateral via the sewer main but that no roots were visible when the manhole was opened. The members directed staff to contact Michigan Plumbing to determine if evidence exists to support Tyler's assertion. Parisian stated that Hilliard will attend the next meeting to describe what he witnessed on site.

2. Parisian presented copies of the 2011-12 Draft Budget and Rate Study for member consideration. She provided an overview noting the following items: a reduction in revenues due to a loss of user fees at the Central Ford location; expenditures similar to last year's with an allowance for design engineering on the Creyts Road lift station improvement slated for 2012; monies for sludge hauling which will be delayed until necessary; an increase in utility costs; and additional funds to begin televising and cleaning the sewer mains. Discussion followed regarding stabilization of the operation portion of the budget and funding for the energy audit. Parisian provided a synopsis of the Rate Study highlighting the ensuing items: an increase in "other income" which provides a reduction to the user rates; the suggested rate of \$30.48 from the study; and the current rate of \$30.00. Parisian stated that from a cash flow perspective, the funds are being set aside for the Capital Improvement Plan as well as the Equipment Replacement Fund as planned. Discussion followed relevant to a small increase versus no increase; upcoming projects; and the potential for further user loss. The Members agreed that the December meeting could be cancelled unless other issues should arise. Stiles noted that he would not be in attendance at the February 2011 meeting.

Motion by Reznick, second Slucter, to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:32 p.m.