

Approved Hudson Sewer Utility Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, December 09, 2010

Attendees:

William Abbott, Chair
Bernie Manor, Vice Chairman
Catherine Valley
Don Gowdy
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Alternate
Craig T. Bailey, Secretary
Roger Coutu - Selectman's Liaison
Gary Webster – Town Engineer



The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Hudson Sewer Utility Committee was held Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 6:00 pm, in the main meeting room of the Town of Hudson Town Hall. William "Bill" Abbott presided as Chairman. Secretarial duties were provided by Craig T. Bailey. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with no corrections required. A motion was made by Bernie to "Accept the meeting minutes for meeting dated November 9th as corrected/presented." Seconded by Bill, the motion carried 2-0.

1. Abatements and Waivers

- A. Abatement request S-UTL-11-02, "Gaspar," 13 Shoreline Drive. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the overall concept of outside water usage requiring abating. Selectman Coutu asked a question if this user intends to install an auxiliary meter? An overall question being asked has to do with the intent of the Utility on allowing abatement specifically for "repeat offenders." The Committee believes the policy should be revised, to specifically discuss the procedure. Don Gowdy moved "To recommend that the Selectmen approve the abatement S-UTL-11-02." Seconded by Bernie Manor, the motion failed 3-2, with considerable discussion around the fact that the sewer user did not make any attempt at pro-actively reducing their sewer bill, and simply ignored the policy and did not even contact the utility prior to irrigating.
- B. Abatement request S-UTL-11-03, "Joslin," 2 Ricky Dr. Bernie Manor moved "To recommend that the Selectmen approve the abatement S-UTL-11-03." Seconded by Catherine, the motion carried without discussion.
- C. Abatement request S-UTL-11-04, "Garnick," 10 St. Anthony Drive. Catherine valley moved "To recommend that the Selectmen not approve the abatement S-UTL-11-04." Seconded by Bernie Manor, the motion carried with some discussion; this being a similar case as S-UTL-11-02, where the sewer user did not attempt any form of investigation before employing an irrigation system, and the sewer user did not utilize the card method.
- D. Abatement request S-UTL-11-05, "Superior," 2 Harvest View Cir. Bernie Manor moved "To recommend that the Selectmen approve the abatement S-UTL-11-05." Seconded by Don Gowdy, the motion carried without discussion.
- E. Abatement request S-UTL-11-06, "Tompkins," 36 Sutherland Drive. Bernie Manor moved "To recommend that the Selectmen approve the abatement S-UTL-11-06." Seconded by Don Gowdy, the motion carried with some discussion.

- F. Abatement request S-UTL-11-07, "Szwec," 3 Merrill St. Don Gowdy moved "To recommend that the Selectmen not approve the abatement S-UTL-11-07." Seconded by Don Gowdy, the motion carried with some discussion around the pool, and the irrigation.
- G. Abatement request S-UTL-11-08, "Spargo," 17 Thurstons Drive. Bernie Manor moved "To recommend that the Selectmen not approve the abatement S-UTL-11-08." Seconded by Don Gowdy, the motion carried with minor discussion that this case is similar to S-UTL-11-02.
- H. Abatement request S-UTL-11-09, "Goguen" 12 Sycamore St. Catherine Valley moved "To recommend that the Selectmen not approve the abatement S-UTL-11-09." Seconded by Bernie Manor, the motion carried with minor discussion that this case is similar to S-UTL-11-02.

2. Reports

- A. The Treasurers' Report dated 10/01/2010 was reviewed by the committee. One question about "Total Notice, LLC" was asked when reviewing the check register. This company has been contracted to assist in the liens and mortgages.
- B. The Expenditure Report dated 12/01/10 was reviewed by the committee. Selectman Coutu asked about line item #203 – it is listed as 72% used. Is this a problem? The Committee mentioned that the check book should be able to be tie a specific check back to which account from the budget.
- C. The Revenue Report dated 12/01/2010 was reviewed by the committee.

3. Old Business

- A. Balance of capacity - unchanged at 58,058 GPD. Gary reports that next month's report will reflect some changes to the balance.

4. New Business

- A. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Review: SUC Chairman Bill Abbott reported that the process went smoothly.
- B. New auxiliary meter discussion: A citizen provided the Sewer Utility a potential low cost meter option for homeowners. The discussion quickly moved to the policy manual, and a question was raised whether or not sewer users received a copy of the policy manual.. They do not currently. Gary Webster will inquire with CLD to receive an electronic copy of the Sewer Utility Policy manual, suitable for posting on the Town of Hudson website. The committee did not look favorably upon the possible meter that was submitted for consideration. Reasons why the committee did not desire the meter: a meter that is not plumbed into the water system is far too easy to be damaged, abused, and disconnected, to name a few. The Sewer Utility still believes a permanently, and professionally installed meter is the most prudent and conservative approach to auxiliary metering.
- C. Policy Changes on outside water use. The Committee discussed whether the policy should be changed to reflect the current situation: a sudden influx of abatement requests due to irrigation – which was brought on by recent drought conditions. Howard Dilworth suggested an informational flyer be included in the spring sewer bill to remind users about auxiliary meters. Craig Bailey indicated that some language inserted or updated in the Sewer Utility Policy Manual might be useful to clarify the procedure when a user **does not** install an auxiliary meter. Craig has volunteered to draft the language, and will provide the draft to

the Sewer Utility Committee for consideration in the January meeting. Howard also mentioned there have been some instances where the staff of the Town have suggested policy, and believes that policy should be recommended by the SUC, and ultimately set by the Selectmen. Selectman Coutu mentioned the fact that abatement requests are currently being sent to the finance director for "approval." The abatement process in general should be reviewed with respect to the manual.

- D. Vac-Con truck purchase: Catherine Valley raised a concern with the recently agreed-upon cost sharing plan for a vac-con truck. Catherine is concerned with the current \$15,000 per year plan from the Highway Department budget, for a possible year 2020 truck – not being enough to fully cover the purchase price of a new vehicle in 2020. It was pointed out that the \$15,000 was only half of the expected annual payment into the Capitol Fund, and the Sewer Utility would be responsible for the remainder. Catherine reminded the committee our most recent purchase, the "2010 truck," where the cost was intended to be shared by the Sewer Utility and the highway department. Catherine was hoping the Highway department was planning on purchasing the 2020 truck entirely, due to the fact they did not contribute to the purchase of the "2010 Truck." Catherine believes this is simply too much money to ignore, and lose. Howard believes it is too late to go back, and try to raise the money to reimburse the Utility for the 2010 purchase. Ultimately, the Utility is benefiting from the use of a brand new vehicle, and had we not made the purchase, the Town and Utility would be renting equipment still.

- E. Catherine valley provided a newspaper clipping regarding the Town of Hooksett sewer plant, and how they have implanted a new technology to improve the biological action of the plant. It was mentioned in the article that the new system has provided great improvements on treatment, and has effectively improved the maximum flow rate. Catherine was wondering if the folks at the City of Nashua sewer treatment plant had ever investigated any new technology, to possibly improve the plant.

5. Closing

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 6:00 pm. After closing comments by committee members, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Craig T. Bailey, PE
Secretary