

Town of Millbury
Minutes of
Sewer Commission Meeting
July 23, 2019

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CALL TO ORDER

Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Gary Nelson, Happy Erickson, Lisa Allain, Keith Caruso DPW Supervisor, Frank Stachura - Sewer Plant Operator, and Amy Paquette Riordan Clerk.

ITEM TWO – PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Finance Director Andrew Vanni was excused from the meeting per the request of Gary Nelson. Per Gary Nelson, Andrew will be in attendance for the August 27th, 2019 meeting for the purpose of setting the new sewer rate for FY20.

Ray Willis from Onsite Engineering was in attendance to discuss the problems with the Elm Court Pump Station. National Grid did a pre walk thru back in August of 2018 and would not approve a permanent generator on the site. National Grid would like the generator moved as far from the conductors as possible. Ray Willis stated there is an easement order in place from 1980/1982 and within the language it states the town has the right to operate, maintain and replace the pump station in question. The specks for this project show the generator to be enclosed just like the one at Elmwood. The structure has also been reduced to four feet in height. On paper Onsite is continuing to improve the situation, Ray has reached out to the DEP for a contact at National Grid and has not been able to obtain one. National Grid has refused to sit down and discuss the Elm Court Pump Station Project with Onsite Engineering. The next step will be for Ray from Onsite to contact the Department of Public Utilities to get a resolution to this matter. National Grid via a 2008 regulation has stated they will allow a generator as long as it is not diesel and as long as it is not permanent. The generator would be allowed on site for 5 days then would need to be removed for 2 days. Ray Willis had stated that this could cause sewer back ups due to pump failures from prolonged power outages and also add stress to the Sewer Dept. staff trying to get a portable generator set up during bad weather conditions. Gary Nelson asked the Commissioners if it would be in the best interest to vacate the Elm Court project at this time and move on to another project. In the meantime, he will reach out to Senator Moore. Gary stated he already had to go to town meeting to secure the funds for this project and would not like to go to town meeting again for the same reason. Lisa Allain asked if it was in their right to apply the money received to another project-Gary Nelson stated the money was appropriated for pump station upgrades-so yes. Frank Stachura asked Ray Willis is the abutting vacant parcel of land would satisfy National Grid and provide the solution necessary for the generator-Ray Willis informed Frank that the parcel of land still falls into the 125-foot right of way. Happy Erickson agrees with Gary that we should move on to another project and work these issues out in the meantime. Gary Nelson then asked Frank if there were any major issues with the Elm Court pump station-Frank stated they may have to replace a few parts but all in all nothing major. Gary Nelson stated that there has been a generator on this site at Elm Court for 29 years in which Frank corrected and stated the generator has been there for 40 years. Onsite is hopeful to resolve the issue with National Grid before the next pump station project is completed. He also stated the three pump stations they are looking at are Wheelock Ave, Warren Ave and Rayburn Drive. Frank stated that Warren Ave is on the pond, Wheelock Ave is

land locked and the deepest and Rayburn Dr is the most tedious to service so all three stations provide a unique set of problems. Gary Nelson would like the easement paperwork from Elm Court sent to town counsel for review of the language. Ray Willis stated National Grid references encroachment easement and the town is working within this permanent easement-Lisa Allain stated that is why there is an easement in place. Lisa also stated that they would need to go to the top dog at National Grid to resolve this instead of dealing with the individuals referenced in the emails they received. Happy agreed we need to send information to town counsel, Lisa agreed they would also reach out to Senator Moore for assistance. Frank raised the point that this is an existing pump station and not a new construction so some things need to be taken into account for that.

ITEM THREE – INVOICES

Miscellaneous invoices reviewed, approved and signed by Sewer Commission.

ITEM THREE – MINUTES

Approved the Minutes from December 11, 2018 Happy made the motion to approve and Gary seconded the motion all were in favor.

ITEM FOUR – MINUTES

Lisa Allain made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 meeting, Happy Erickson seconded the motion-a unanimous vote ensued.

ITEM FIVE - OPERATIONS:

At this time the Sewer Commissioners will wait to hear from Ray Willis to advise which pump station project they will move onto to as all have been designed to date and will just have to be reviewed.

Gary Nelson then gave all present hand outs (3 pages) on the new sewer rate information. Lisa Allain stated she likes the idea of the gradual increase in the sewer rate. Also, he informed the Commissioners that they will need to schedule a meeting with Weston & Sampson to outline an MS4 schedule for work to be done each year for this project and compliance.

Gary has requested information from Andrew Vanni the finance director on the Commissions retained earnings and stabilization fund balances. He will provide to the Commissioners when he receives it. Andrew has informed Gary that they are in good shape financially Gary will have another discussion with the finance director about multiple line items in the budget for tracking purposes.

Happy Erickson thanked Gary Nelson for all the time and hard work he put into preparing the sewer rate information and Lisa Allain agreed and thanked Gary as well.

Gary then asked the DPW Supervisor if he had been up to inspect McGrath Road recently-Keith informed him that he has not. Gary stated he was there the other day and work is being done at the house all the way down. Gary will reach out and see if Wayne is still working on this project.

Logan from Eastland Partners contacted Frank for site visit and review of sewer system for Park Hill Ave. Logan is looking for a way to tie in to the sewer. Frank stated he is even considering the back-door option at this point. Gary asked if there were wetlands there in which Frank answered yes and other roads that may not be assessible from that site. Frank stated that either way he choses

to tie in it will have to be looked at for capacity and possible construction of new pump station to handle the additional flow.

Frank also informed the sewer commissioners that they are currently working on quarterly maintenance. Pavement is down up on Autumn Gate, Andrews Surveying has reached out regarding Grafton St, the control panel is being fixed at pump station number 1 and that Knollwood Circle's panel will be fixed next week. Gary asked Frank if Sutton had contacted them regarding the money they think we owe them for the difference between their numbers and ours Frank believes the information is incomplete. The Sutton Company showed up today and Frank will follow up with them in a few days. Frank stated they will probably need another calibration company to come and check. Sutton claims we owe them roughly \$8,000. Gary stated the right approach was taken and rate went from 9 % to 13 % and they were never back charged so the billing is even-Frank then stated that our calibration could be wrong but all meters ours and Suttons should read the same and that is not the case.

Gary informed the board that quarterly billing will not happen until September of 2020 as Denise will need to see what the impact will be on her office and we will need to inform the public of the change in a reasonable manner.

The Sewer Commissioners received an email about a possible leak/discharge into Singletary Brook Frank does not believe that this is sewer related, Keith and Frank will preform a die test to determine if this is from an old storm drain. They will also check the sewer lines there.

TIP Project-Sewer lines on McCracken Road will cost roughly \$300,000-Keith Caruso stated he had a TIP Project meeting 7/24/2019 and would need an answer from the Sewer Commissioners. Frank asked where the lines would connect and Gary stated they wouldn't connect anywhere they would just be placed in the ground for future purposes. Gary stated that per his conversation with the Town manager sewer, gas and water services would be attractive for future development in that area. After a brief discussion regarding the causeway, area, moratorium on new pavement, grades, direction the commissioners came to the decision that there are just too many moving parts at this time for them to commit funds to this project.

ITEM SIX – ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

3 Momin Drive-Elliot Wells-motion to approve abatement Happy Erickson, second Lisa Allain, vote unanimous.

ITEM SEVEN – BETTERMENTS:

Nothing at this time

ITEM EIGHT – SEWER EXTENSIONS/CONNECTIONS:

North Main Street Permit-Gary asked that permit be pulled for review as it was postponed at last meeting and he has not heard anything further.

ITEM NINE– ADDITIONAL TOPICS

The sewer meeting for December 24, 2019 (Christmas Eve) has been cancelled by unanimous vote.

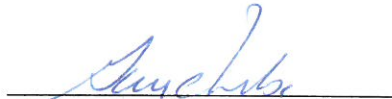
ITEM TEN – FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next regular scheduled meetings will be held August 27, 2019 and September 10, 2019. Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted and/or cancelled.

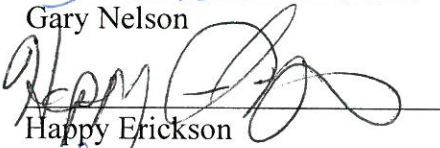
ITEM ELEVEN – ADJOURNMENT

At 6:51 p.m. Lisa Allain made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Happy Erickson seconded the motion-vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Paquette-Riordan
Clerk-Sewer Department



Gary Nelson



Happy Erickson



Lisa Allain