



TOWN OF SUNAPEE
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. Box 347, Sunapee, New Hampshire 03782-0347
(603) 763-2115

Board of Commissioners Meeting
October 19, 2023
Sunapee Town Office Meeting Room

PRESENT: Theodore Gallup – Chairman, Jimmy Williams, Richard Curtis, Wayne Stoddard, Douglas Gamsby, Charles Hirshberg.

Also present: Holly Leonard and David Bailey. New London Selectmen – William Helm & Janet Kidder. Bette Nowak, Keith Chrisman.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. 2024 Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget: Holly L. presented that the town had decided to put forth a 3% cola for employees and that health insurance had increased by nearly 20%. There was some discussion regarding the fact that the treatment plant budget did not show this entire amount and that a larger percentage of labor had been allocated next year toward water instead of the plant. Holly L. stated that the proposed budget reflects the new electricity contract with Constellation that went up nearly 40% starting next month. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of solar power at the Treatment Plant and that at the next meeting there would be a presentation from a solar panel installation company about a proposed contract. William H. stated that he thinks this is a similar situation to what New London has entered into and that New London has successfully installed solar panels on some town buildings and at the location of their old lagoons. There was much discussion in support of moving forward with installation of solar panels to offset energy use.

William H. questioned the continued practice of depositing money into the replacement fund as it seems to have not been used for much over the last 10 years and suggested that not funding this account for the coming year could help keep the overall budget increase down. There was some discussion regarding the Replacement Account balance and the fact that this fund could be depleted quite quickly with the need to replace a large piece of equipment and the amount of things listed in the Asset Management Program as being in need of replacement in the next 10 years. William H. would like to see Sunapee's Asset Management Program with this list of equipment. William H. suggested taking \$20,000 off the proposed replacement fund deposit for 2024. Holly L. stated that this would bring the overall treatment plant budget increase down from 5.49% to 3.1% at a total of \$880,415. There was some discussion about if this would be advisable. William H. moved to set the 2024 treatment plant budget at the \$880,415, seconded by Janet K., after some discussion, New London voted in favor, Sunapee voted in favor, so declared by the Chairman.

2. Forms for Approval:

September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Charles H. made a motion to accept the September 28th meeting minutes, seconded by Jimmy W. voted unanimously in favor, so declared by the Chairman.

September Sewer Purchase Journal: Douglas G. made a motion to accept the September sewer purchase journal, seconded by Jimmy W., after some discussion regarding manhole covers from EJ Prescott, voted unanimously in favor, so declared by the Chairman.

September Water Purchase Journal: Charles H. made a motion to accept the Sunapee water purchase journal through September 30th, seconded by Douglas G., after some discussion regarding Grappone, voted unanimously in the affirmative, so declared by the Chairman.

September 2023 Income Statements for Water & Sewer: Douglas G. made a motion to accept the September 2023 Income Statements, seconded by Jimmy W., voted unanimously in favor, so declared by the Chairman.

2024 Water Grant Acceptance and Authorization: Charles H. made a motion to accept the 2024 grant application for water and to authorize the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Commission, seconded by Douglas G., voted unanimously in the affirmative, so declared by the Chairman.

Second Billing Warrants for 2023: Holly L. presented that the sewer rent collector's warrant had totaled \$399,401.96 for the second half of 2023 and that the water rent collectors' warrant had come to a total of \$317,433.20. Jimmy W. made a motion to accept the rent collectors warrants as presented, seconded by Douglas G., voted unanimously in favor, so declared by the Chairman.

3. Wastewater Treatment Highlights: Dave B. reported that he is looking to purchase some totes of rare earth and pick them up in Epping. He stated that he had originally thought he would wait until March for another tanker load but that he thinks the rare earth degrades over time and does not work as well, so he would propose getting it in smaller amounts to avoid it sitting for long periods of time. Dave B. stated that the plant is running very good and that he is getting the second half of the SQC sampling done soon. There was some discussion regarding the new sludge testing for PFOA's that is coming soon. He stated that manholes on Burkehaven Hill had needed to be fixed as they had been found to be sliding down the hill, he also reported that rights of ways are being mowed and that there are two manhole covers on the Brown's Hill right of way that need fixing and or replacement.
4. Water Treatment Highlights: Dave B. reported that the summer water lines are shut off and that they are being blown out. He stated that he thinks that there will need to be a summer water line replacement on Garnet Hill Road before next summer. Dave B. stated that the water systems have been running well but that there have been some issues in Georges Mills with the pumps not kicking on and that A/D Instruments needs to come check out the issue when they install the new meter for the wells there. Theodore G. brought up the rust issue that had come up on High Street recently. Dave B. replied that he has had a thought that this issue only seems to have surfaced since the new line was connected to Chase Street and that he thinks there is less water going through High Street because 103B is being fed from Chase instead of running through High Street. He stated that they are going to try a few things when flushing this fall to see if this may be remedied by perhaps throttling back a valve to encourage more flow through High Street.
5. Old & New Business:
Fuss & O'Neill Invoices: Holly L. passed out copies of two Fuss & O'Neill invoices that were received after the packets went out. Jimmy W. made a motion to approve payment of both billings one for \$5,964 and the other for \$6,576.30, seconded by Douglas G., voted unanimously in favor, so declared by the Chairman.
2024 Proposed Budgets and Warrant Articles: Holly L. presented that there needs to be a warrant article for a bond to cover the difference of the 2,148,000 bond article that was approved in March for the cost of construction estimated by Fuss & O'Neill for Lower Main Street and the Route 11 crossings and that if the Commission included the design engineering for Central Street, High Street and Route 103B, the article should be for 1,050,000. She put forth that there would also be an article for the proposed large equipment garage at the Wastewater Plant in the amount of \$250,000. There was some discussion regarding the proposed garage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it would be located and what it would be constructed of and where the funds would come from to pay for it. Wayne S. made a motion to accept the warrant articles and the budgets as proposed, seconded by Jimmy W., voted unanimously in the affirmative, so declared by the Chairman.

Holly L. stated that the Commission needs to address Dave B.'s yearly review in November and the Commission decided that they would like the review forms sent to each of them to then be returned to the office for the Chairman to present to the Town Manager and Dave B. Holly L. will send out the forms in early November.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2023.

6:45 p.m. Douglas G. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jimmy W., voted unanimously in the affirmative, so declared by the Chairman.