

April 20, 2016

Call to Order: The special meeting of the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 6:30 pm. Members present-Russell Gray, John Firlik, C. Peter Rabbitt, and Neil Cook. Members absent-Dale Clark.

Staff present-Lincoln Cooper and Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-Russell Tierney.

Audience of Citizens: Russell Tierney of Whitewater, Inc. distributed a handout addressing the needs of Sterling's Water System. Goals for immediate, short term, and long term improvements were discussed. Some of the immediate needs to be addressed would be flushing out the system the last week of April, replacement of failing tank level transducer, seal tank vent penetration, and installation of new screen on tank vent. Short term needs to be addressed within the next two to six (2-6) months would be replace KOH tank bulk fill line and chemical feeder suction line piping and remove and clean up liquid, which is possibly spilled KOH which is in the KOH secondary containment tank. Whitewater, Inc. would submit quotes from three (3) companies. Long term needs would be a water filtration plant for wells (1.5 million estimate as of 6/17/2015). If the Town is interested, Whitewater, Inc. will finance the project for a low interest rate and the cost would be added to the annual fee that the Town currently pays spread out over a period of time (copy on file).

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the 6/17/2015 meeting minutes, the 7/15/2015 and 7/29/2015 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Sewer Infiltration: R. Gray reported water is still infiltrating the system. The last bill from the Plainfield Sewer Authority was over and beyond the normal amount. R. Gray will contact Jeff Young at the Plainfield Sewer Authority to have them bring back the cameras and recheck the pipes for leakage.

b. Water System Issues: Russell Tierney reported earlier tonight on the needs of the water system. Whitewater, Inc. plans to flush the system twice a year; in April and October to clear the lines. Installing a water filtration system would solve the issue of the blackish water.

c. Sewer Pump Station: The spare pump has been purchased but to date has not been installed as the other two pumps are working. The Town received money from Re-Energy in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Town of Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to be used for the purchase of a spare pump.

d. Sterling Industrial Park Lot #11 – Hook-up Water and Sewer Lines (C. Corson, III): In response to a request from this Commission's meeting of June 2015, J. Gustavson received an email from Patricia Ball, Economic Development Coordinator, dated 4/13/2016 stating that the current amended and recently filed Covenants (10/13/2015) for the Sterling Industrial Park does not include language that exempts the Sewer Assessment fee. Per notes from Sharon Chviek, former Economic Development Coordinator, property located in Phase 1 of the Industrial Park is exempt from the sewer assessment fee due to a \$200,000 grant to put in sewer – "we do not charge for a company to hook up to the line in the road – company must pay their own contracting to put in sewer line from road to their business." Per Elsie Bisset, dated 4/1996.

New Business:

a. Quarterly Report from Treasurer: The following reports were submitted and reviewed: Fiscal Year 2014-2015, 4th quarter 4/1-6/30/2015; Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 1st quarter 7/1-9/30/2015; Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 2nd quarter 10/1-12/31/2015. The most recent report covering Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 3rd quarter 1/1-3/31/2016 showed the Sewer Authority lost \$22,205.49 and the Water Company earned \$3,027.20. As of 3/31/2016 Sewer owes General Fund \$170,000 and Water owes General Fund \$20,000.

b. Consider & Act on Removing Sewer Usage Fees for David Ditusa for Property Located at 124 Sterling Road: R. Gray reported that David Ditusa approached him and asked if the sewer usage fees for property located at 124 Sterling Road could be waived as there is no bathroom or sink in the building. R. Gray inspected the property and confirmed that the building has no water usage and is being used as a warehouse.

J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to waive the usage fee for Grand List 2014 for property located at 124 Sterling Road. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by J. Firlik, seconded by N. Cook that the previous motion to waive the usage fee for Grant List 2014 for property located at 124 Sterling Road be rescinded and for R. Gray to contact Jeff Young of the Plainfield Sewer Authority to get a logical opinion and how they handle a situation like this. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on Increasing Rate for the Municipal Water Company: P. Rabbitt asked what percent of people are on the water system that do not live in Sterling, but are landlords living out of the area. R. Gray reported that Plainfield charges .34 cents per day and .07 cents per gallon for a meter that is 5/8" in size. The last time the water rates were increased was May 2, 2011. We have about 90 houses on water. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to have Whitewater, Inc. compare our water rates to other towns that they service. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Authority: 1) Consider & Act on 2016 Schedule of Meetings: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the 2016 quarterly meeting schedule. All voted in favor of the motion.

Adjournment: P. Rabbitt made a motion, seconded by N. Cook, to adjourn 7:38 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary