

September 21, 2016

Call to Order: The quarterly meeting of the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 6:34 pm. Member's present-Russell Gray, C. Peter Rabbitt, Neil Cook, and John Firlik (6:37 p.m.). Member's absent-Dale Clark.

Staff present- Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-Robert Wittenzellner.

Audience of Citizens: Robert Wittenzellner of Whitewater, Inc. reported that the latest improvements to the water system seem to be working. The ph chart recorder was damaged due to being struck by lightning and needed to be replaced. The well house chart recorders track such variables as gallons per minute, pressure, the ph level, and the chlorine residual in the water. The fall distribution system flushing will be scheduled soon. The system cross connection inspection/survey will be completed before the end of the year.

Approval of Minutes: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the 4/20/2016 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Sewer Infiltration: R. Gray reported that this is an ongoing problem. When we have a considerable amount of rain, water infiltrates the system. Jeff Young of the Plainfield Sewer Authority is monitoring the infiltration.
- b. Water System Issues: R. Wittenzeller of Whitewater, Inc. reported that there are no known issues. The system was flushed in April and that helped in keeping the water clean.
- c. Sewer Pump Station: R. Gray reported no new information. The Town received \$39,960 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 upgrades to the system. The upgrades have been completed. R. Gray made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to remove this item from the agenda.
- d. Consider & Act on Removing Sewer Usage Fees for David DiTusa for Property Located at 124 Sterling Road: R. Gray reported that he contacted J. Young inquiring how they remove sewer usage fees when a property has no bathroom or sink. The Plainfield Sewer Authority places the burden on the taxpayer to submit a letter stating that there is no sewage use or plumbing available on the property. David DiTusa, homeowner of the property located at 124 Sterling Road submitted two (2) letters to the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority dated 7/6/2016 requesting to have the sewer usage fees removed for Grand List 2014-06-449 and Grand List 2015-06-449. N. Cook made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to remove sewer usage fees for David DiTusa for property located at 124 Sterling Road for Grand List 2014-06-449 and Grand List 2015-06-449. All voted in favor of the motion.
- e. Consider & Act on Increasing Rate for the Municipal Water Company: R. Wittenzeller reported that it costs between \$15,000 to \$20,000 to clean the tank. Information regarding the percent of people that are on the water system who do not live in Sterling, but are landlords living out of the area was not available. J. Gustavson will ask Anna Gagner, Revenue Collector for a report with the breakdown of people who do not live in Sterling, but are landlords living out of area, as well as, the number of residential and commercial accounts. R. Wittenzeller will compare our water rates to other towns that they service and will present that information at the next scheduled meeting. Approximately eighty (80) residential customers, ten (10) commercial customers, and the school on the system are on the water system. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

- a. Quarterly Report from Treasurer: This report covering the quarter 4/1-6/30/2016 showed the Sewer Authority lost \$13,294.29 and the Water Company lost \$4,164.63. For FY 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016 the Sewer Authority lost \$13,126.38 and the Water Company earned \$15,837.34. As of 6/30/2016 Sewer owes the General Fund \$170,000 and Water owes the General Fund \$20,000. These are the same balances since 9/30/2015 for both funds.

b. Consider & Act on Purchasing an Additional 10,000 Gallons of Sewer Capacity: R. Gray reported that it would cost \$40,900 to purchase 10,000 gallons of additional sewer capacity. Additional capacity is sold in 10,000 gallon increments and the cost is a one-time purchase. Currently we have 27,500 gallons of sewer capacity and when we have a heavy rain, we easily go over the current capacity, sometimes amounting to a bill in excess of \$9,000. J. Young of Plainfield Sewer Authority recommends purchasing an additional 10,000 gallons of sewer capacity. Discussion was held on the dollar amount we paid for the overage in the last few years. R. Gray will check with Penny Keith, Treasurer, for the actual amount that the Town has paid in overage fees for the last few years. J. Firlik suggested we hire someone to locate and fix the leaks. N. Cook made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Authority: None

Adjournment: P. Rabbitt made a motion, seconded by N. Cook, to adjourn 7:08 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary