

July 12, 2017

**Item I: Call to Order:** The special meeting of the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Member's present-Russell Gray, Neil Cook, Lincoln Cooper, John Firlik and C. Peter Rabbitt.

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson. Also present-Robert Wittenzellner, Paul Sweet and Jeff Young.

**Item II: Discussion Concerning the Pump Station from Operation to Safety, Maintenance, and Age of the Pump Station:** Paul Sweet, Plainfield's First Selectmen spoke on behalf of the Plainfield Sewer Department stating that the Town of Sterling has a contract with Plainfield to maintain the pump station. The pump station is aging and the employees operating the plant feel they are in danger of being injured. The shutoff valves cannot be turned off without compromising oneself of drowning in sewer or being electrocuted. When the valves get changed, the pipes that are running to the force main and the pumps are old enough that a pipe could blow at anytime. The plant needs work and the controls need to be above ground. The Plainfield Sewer Department is neither qualified nor capable to make these repairs. The electric controls to shut off the valves are located underground, the wear and tear is beyond its use of time, and the work can no longer be done safely. The Town of Sterling needs a new pump station. Repairs are at a point that it is no longer considered general maintenance. P. Sweet stated that he contacted Fuss & O'Neill, who looked at the station and New England Pump & Valve who was not interested. The Plainfield Sewer Department has an inventory of the parts that belong to Sterling. P. Sweet also stated that Virgil Lloyd, Senior Vice President of Fuss and O'Neil is working with Plainfield and suggested that the Town could bypass, take everything out, put pumps on rails so they go down, put the power to the top, and then service the pumps. The estimated expense is under one million (1,000,000). The Town could apply for a low interest loan, payable over forty (40) years, through Johan Strandson of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA). J. Young of the Plainfield Sewer Department submitted photos of the system (copy on file). A temporary system will need to be built while the new system is constructed. R. Wittenzellner will assess the pump station and meet with the Plainfield Sewer Authority.

**Item III: Discussion Concerning Billing for Empireco Limited Partnership – 10 Exeter Drive:** R. Gray stated that he received a memo dated 7/6/2017 from Anna Gagner, Revenue Collector stating that Empireco Limited Partnership inquired about the water usage bill. There was a verbal agreement in place with ReEnergy regarding a flat fee for water while the plant was out of service. On 9/29/2016 there was a name change from ReEnergy to Empireco Limited Partnership and Empireco has stated that it is a hardship to pay \$16,760 per quarter. Empireco owes the Town for the last two (2) quarters, \$33,520 for water, \$2,514 for interest for a total of \$36,034. R. Gray stated that when ReEnergy shut down, the lack of water usage was a bigger problem over tax loss for real estate and personal property. The Town has not received a conveyance fee and there is a verbal agreement in place; however, Empireco believes they are not required to honor the verbal agreement. R. Wittenzellner spoke to Mark Jordan, an engineer at Empireco and Mark stated that Empireco has plans to reopen the plant which is currently in the hands of the State. When the plant is operational, it is estimated to use nine (9) gallons per minute for an approximate usage of 400,000 gallons per month. J. Firlik stated that a deal could be made between the Town and Empireco while the plant is not operational. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to table this item and have Empireco Limited Partnership submit a plan to the Town. All voted in favor of the motion.

**Item IV: Adjournment:** L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary