

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SEWER COMMISSION MEETING**

Minutes of July 16, 2018

TOWN OFFICE

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bruno, R. Combs, R. Spaulding, J. Leamy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Z. Holzworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Jordan, see attached listing

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by J. Bruno at 7:00pm.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 2018

J. Leamy made a motion to approve the minutes from February 12, 2018. R. Spaulding seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2018-2019

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Waste Water Treatment Plant budget at \$706,014. J. Leamy seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

R. Spaulding questioned what made up the \$51,000 increase. M. Jones stated that Other Purchased Services made up most of it. J. Jordan stated that getting the tank cleaned would cost most of that. He said the tank has sludge buildup which is causing the aerators to have trouble. He said it's been at least twenty years since it was last cleaned. R. Combs asked how often they should be cleaned. J. Jordan said at least every twenty years. He stated that when the small tank was cleaned a few years ago it cost around \$20,000 and this would be the big tank so it would cost more. M. Jones said that the tank being cleaned would help it to run more efficiently. J. Jordan stated some of the increase is also from the UV system upgrade. He said the new systems will have less lamps and will have dimming capabilities to save a lot of energy. The lamps and sleeves will take half the time to change and clean which will save on labor. He said there will be a 50% reduction in bulbs; there are 256 now. J. Bruno asked if anything at the sewer plant needs attention now that the roof is done. He asked about the ceiling tiles. J. Jordan stated the ceiling tile have already been replaced. M. Jones stated there are a couple other small improvements such as new front doors. The doors are so old and worn that light can be seen through the sides. He also said something needs to be done about drainage. Rain is running down the driveway and pools against the building and is rotting the sills out. Paul Eagan is figuring out a way to help with drainage.

R. Combs asked why Professional Services is higher. He doesn't doubt that it's an appropriate number but was curious why. Melanie Combs, the Town Accountant advised that it was because of engineering costs for the sewer line project. J. Bruno asked when Belden is starting that project. M. Jones stated that August 1st is the start date and that Belden's has advised they will be starting on the south end so they won't disrupt traffic at the Four Corners until after Labor Day. J. Bruno asked if there has been any word from the State on traffic at the Corners. M. Jones says there hasn't been, but that traffic will not be diverted through Muhammed's store parking lot. If both lanes are to be shut down, traffic will be diverted to Fair Haven.

R. Spaulding asked if \$50,000 was a high price from A1 Sewer for the tank cleaning. J. Jordan said that was just an estimate he got from them while they were there and that when it came time for the project, it would be bid out to get the best price.

R. Spaulding asked why it seemed like A1 Sewer was the only company dumping septic at the Sewer Plant. J. Jordan said that everyone goes to Rutland to dump now because their rate is lower. They charge \$.07 per gallon and Castleton charges \$.10 per gallon. M. Jones asked if the board wanted to lower the rate they charge to be more competitive. J. Jordan said he doesn't believe there is any point in generating business to dump in Castleton because it takes a lot of energy and money to aerate the pump, keep phosphorus levels where they should be, and pay to have the sludge hauled to Rutland anyway. J. Leamy asked why the Miscellaneous Revenue line only had \$100 for 18-19 which would include revenue from companies dumping. He asked what could be done to make Castleton more competitive. He asked if Fair Haven or Poultney allow dumping at their facilities. J. Jordan said neither of them do. He stated that Rutland is better set up for allowing dumping because they have digestors which use it to generate energy and heat. M. Jones stated that it doesn't appear to be worth the wear and tear on the systems to encourage dumping. J. Leamy stated that companies used to dump in Castleton until Rutland lowered their rates and with the plant upgrades that have been made he doesn't understand why the town shouldn't try to produce some revenue if they can. J. Bruno said it would be OK if it was producing revenue, but it's not worth it if no revenue is being made. J. Jordan said it costs \$400 to dump a full load in Castleton and the last company he saw was Trombley over a year ago. The only time A1 comes to dump is if it's from Castleton and then there is no charge because it would've come to the Sewer Plant anyway. R. Spaulding said the budget has overestimated revenue for the last two years. M. Combs advised she received a notice from Rutland that they are charging \$.08 starting with June invoicing. J. Leamy said he would like to see M. Jones and J. Jordan investigate if Castleton could have a better set up to accept dumping for revenue. J. Bruno wants to know how much it would cost to process and still be competitive.

J. Bruno asked what the total capacity is for units. There are 1,366 units now; how many more could the town take on? J. Jordan said he didn't know. J. Leamy said he read it in the new proposed Town Plan but didn't recall the number. J. Bruno stated there has been talk before of an infiltration problem on Route 30 with rain water getting into the manholes that are not sealed. J. Jordan clarified that infiltration is ground water, inflo is from sump pumps. J. Leamy stated that the Sewer Operator had been asked prior to start doing home inspections to find out how many sump pumps were on the line. J. Jordan said he's done around 100 and has found one so far.

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to set the Sewer rate for 2018-2019 at \$509.45 per ECU. J. Leamy seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

MOTION: J. Leamy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. R. Combs seconded. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully,

Darcy Van Noordt

Date of Approval: _____

DRAFT