

TOWN OF CASTLETON
SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Monday, September 11, 2023 6:15 p.m.
Fire Department Community Room

Zoom Meeting Recording Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kvNeTHy5xnZYvc-8nctHVFlz0poJP14slbo7ei7v-VD8bPJghfQmILAu1rqMNMJ.TYJStNI31T5oSung>

ATTENDING: Mike Jones, Town Manager, James Leamy, Chair, Richard Combs, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Mary Lee Harris

Attending Via Zoom: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Jim Leamy at 6:18 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 8/14/23

R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/14/23 as presented. ML Harris seconded.

Page 1 – First line of the Penta Quote paragraph, *stated that* should be inserted after M. Jones.

All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

REQUEST TO ABATE SEWER CHARGES AND TERMINATE SEWER ALLOTMENT FOR 238 ROUTE 4AW – J. SESSOCK

R. Combs made a motion to abate sewer charges and termination allotment for 238 Route 4A W. ML Harris seconded. J. Mark and R. Combs stated they felt they should have a date of the termination of the allotment. R. Combs amended the motion to include the abatement of sewer charges should be effective as of the date of the fire. ML Harris seconded the amendment. All voted in favor of the amended motion. Motion carried 4-0.

GILMORE HOME CENTER REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT OF SEWER CHARGES SINCE THE FIRE THAT DESTROYED THE MAIN BUILDING

R. Combs made a motion to abate sewer charges and suspend the sewer allotment for the main building at Gilmore Home Center effective the date of the fire. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION ABOUT FUNDING FOR PROPOSED SEWER EXTENSIONS (Bond Capacity, ARPA Funds, Sewer Reserve Funds)

M. Jones stated he is looking for direction on the proposals for funding for sewer extensions and stated they can't use any of the remaining bond capacity for extensions. M. Jones further explained available funds within sewer reserves and unallocated has about 1.4 million in it and ARPA funds as well. He also pointed out that it all starts with engineering and which are priority. Some of the Crystal Heights extension groundwork has been done from a previous discussion, other extensions that are being talked about have not had any of the groundwork done to date. Sewer funds are not tied to a specific date, however ARPA funds have to be designated by December of 2024 and expended by December of 2026.

Discussion held on the primary proposals, Crystal Heights, Depot Terrace, Preston Lane and Creek Road and what costs would be involved for those property owners who want to connect. J. Mark stated he would be in favor of getting updated figures from Aldrich and Elliott. Discussion on the projects and how the Board should proceed, as well as cost to the

landowners and whether the Town would front the construction costs for the homeowner and what the engineering costs are going to be and what they will include. It was felt by the Board members that Crystal Heights should be considered the top priority. **J. Mark proposed a motion of if this board proposed a sewer extension during FY 24 or FY 25 fiscal years, homeowners within the legally designated distance will be obligated to pay a prorated portion of the cost of the installation of the sewer line. In addition, property owners choosing to hook into the sewer line will be fully responsible for the costs of connecting their properties to the main line. Property owners' payments both for the costs of the main line and for hooking up their properties to that line may be fronted by the Town with the provision that the owner must pay back the Town by a monthly payment over a five-year period. R. Combs seconded** for discussion and stated he is not completely comfortable with the monthly payments from the property owner just yet but felt it is a good start. Maybe quarterly would make more sense. Further discussion on which projects are a priority and whether Preston Lane or Depot Terrace should be considered second priority. J Burke stated he felt all property owners on Preston Lane would have to connect based on the sewer connection rules, the lots are all under 200 feet deep. He also stated to remind the Board the ARPA funds in the beginning were intended for infrastructure within the Town such as water, sewer, highway, bridges, etc. J. Mark questioned if he is correct in stating the properties on the proposed line would contribute to the cost of the construction of the line, and it would be up to the property owner as to whether to connect. **J. Mark stated he did not believe his previous motion was seconded (it had been seconded) and the board had asked for a written proposal of the motion and therefore made a motion that the Selectboard's top two priorities for sewer extension would be Crystal Heights and Depot Terrace and direct the Town Manager to do whatever further development of costs and estimates is needed to allow the board to make decisions about those two extensions. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

SEWER BOARD COMMENTS AND/OR CONCERNS

None at this time.

6:59 pm-ADJOURN

R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. ML Harris seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey
Recording Secretary