

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, September 27, 2021
Town Office 263 Route 30N or by Zoom**

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/96B-XXnri41eo-qiFmW_9-SLK7_xF8vUZ5s8wyupVCDMJsuABbSFVS7oF8DcleVs.gztF6CB_MrMAGQqU?startTime=1632782489000

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Robert Spaulding, Member; Michael Holden, Member; Michael Jones, Town Manager, Jim Thomas, resident; Wayne Elliott & Jeff Lewis of Aldrich & Elliott, Hugo Martinez, State of Vermont. Not present: Sewer Commissioner member Joe Mark.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Leamy at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Mr. Holden made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 07/26/21: Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/26/21 as presented. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS: Jim Thomas wondered where Crystal Heights sewer line is in regard to consideration of expansion of the municipal sewer collection system. Mr. Leamy stated it is under consideration with possible use of federal/ARPA funds. Mr. Thomas thanked him.

UPDATE FROM ALDRICH & ELLIOTT ON 20-YEAR UPGRADE PROCESS: Wayne Elliott, Jeff Lewis, Hugo Martinez Cazon, Environmental Engineer from the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. Primarily here for environmental review process, which is state requirement for use of funds. (Project is) straight-forward. Majority, if not all work, is occurring within existing structures. Environmental impact is minor. Project qualifies for a categorical exclusion and Mr. Hugo Martinez will explain. Mr. Martinez states that all is moving all well. Next step is to issue the letter. Should be coming this week. The next letter will be the facility plan approval letter. Drafted and ready to go. Have reviewed the project cost summary, no issues there. No questions from board or citizens. Mr. Elliott stated everything remains on track as far as schedule. Mr. Elliott advised he is in the process of scheduling the next review meeting with Town and State and that did advertisement is on track for early 2022.

REVIEW OF QUOTE TO CLEAN AND INSPECT THE SLUDGE TANK Mr. Jones questioned Mr. Elliott regarding quotes for inspecting sludge tank, Jeff was reaching out for other vendors. Only received one quote back. Mr. Elliott had offered a few suggestions but confirmed that there are very few vendors available that do this anymore.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

Mr. Spaulding questioned the quote cost...\$1800/dry ton with a minimum of 25 dry tons. He stated the Town would have 133.44 dry tons. He asked if that is correct, meaning the cost would be approx. quarter of a million dollars. Looking for clarification. Wayne Elliott had not seen the quote but stated needed to be careful because it is difficult to firm up quantity. Problem with sludge is that there are fewer places to dispose, might even have to take it to Canada. Mr. Elliott didn't believe Casella does this anymore. Total minimum project estimated is \$89,391 for 25 dry tons. Important to dewater. Mr. Elliott is happy to take a look at it. Mr. Jones wondered if October is too late to do this. Confusion regarding the actual cost. Mr. Combs wants to know how much budgeted. Mr. Jones stated only 80k was budgeted. Mr. Jones stated that it seems reasonable that it could cost \$250,000. Mr. Combs: "If we don't do this what are the ramifications". Mr. Jones said we would continue to draw down to keep it below the hole. The tank hasn't been inspected as long as Jeff (Jordan) has been there, and nobody knows the condition of the tank. Mr. Jones to Mr. Elliott: "Is there any kind of frequency of inspection?" Mr. Elliott: "Tanks on the water side are taken down every 5 years. It is hard and costly to get the sludge down often enough for frequent inspection."

Mr. Holden: "What will happen if we get to the bottom and the tank is no good?" Nobody seemed to know the actual age of the tank. Mr. Elliott did not know immediately. He advised that there are quite a few around (like the one in Castleton). Mr. Elliott didn't think it likely that it would have to be taken out of service.

Mr. Leamy: "Is it possible the cleaning and inspection could qualify under fed funds (ARPA)?" Mr. Elliott suggested to get an eligibility determination on it because water and sewer are appropriate categories. Mr. Elliott stated that it likely it could qualify, because it needs repairs not just standard maintenance.

Jeff Lewis: "It looks to have been built in 1997."

Mr. Combs: "Where is the money coming from if it costs \$250k?" Mr. Jones advised that the sewer reserve account would be able to cover what the operating budget could not.

Mr. Spaulding would like Mr. Jones to get answers before they decide and asked if they could decide by phone. Mr. Jones said advised they [board] could warn special meeting by phone for approval.

Questions for Town Manager to get answers for: #1 - how old is the tank? #2 - What is the recommended frequency of cleaning? #3 - Eligibility determination using ARPA funds. #4 - Availability of company to do the work? #5 - Verify amount for the project – worst case.

Mr. Spaulding wants to know permitted numbers on EUs. Mr. Jones and Mr. Elliott did not have numbers off the top of their heads. Mr. Jones advised, and Mr. Elliott agreed, that the Town is well under the amount of what permitted by State, and below reserve capacity. Mr. Spaulding wants to know how many EU's can be added to keep costs down. Jones will get back with answer.

There were no comments or concerns made by any of the Sewer Commissioners.

Mr. Holden made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Combs seconded. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.