

**SOUTH BERWICK SEWER DISTRICT  
180 MAIN STREET  
SOUTH BERWICK, ME 03908**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 3, 2007**

ROLL CALL: Al Roberge, Mark Forsyth, Dennis Fontaine, Dick Dionne, George Gray, Bonnie Bishop (Office Manager) and Tom Harmon (Administrative Assistant).

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Roberge called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE: Mr. Roberge opened the floor to the following audience members:

John Kareckas: Discussed the amount of total septage received by the treatment plant. In trying to understand the amount of revenue that would be off-set, he questioned the change in billing amounts in relation to the current statutory rate if the plant were granted the permit. Mr. Kareckas inquired to how the figure was derived in reference to the proposed increase in the variable sewage rate at a 17% increase.

Mr. Harmon: In response to Mr. Kareckas Mr. Harmon noted that there will be an increase in billing charges in any situation. The District received \$750,000 annually for septage between the years, 2005-2007. The variable rate with 72,500,000 gallons of domestic sewage is based on water meter readings. Approximately, the District is currently receiving 10 million a year or 40,000 gallons a day of septage. District profits of 40% go into a capital reserve account while the remaining 60% is used for operating costs to treat septage. Currently, the plant is operating at 60% capacity for domestic sewage. If the permit were to be granted under current DEP regulations, the District would go from treating 40,000 gallons a day down to 5,000 gallons a day.

Mr. Roberge stated that an increase of rates have held the same in the past year.

Mr. Gray noted that typically construction fees have been limited to \$5,000 in the past when the fees could have been more.

Mr. Harmon noted that currently septic earnings are being set aside in capital reserve accounts for future facility costs.

Mr. Roberge closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 3, 2007**

MINUTES OF MEETING: Mr. Gray motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, November 5, 2007. Motion seconded by Mr. Forsythe. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE: The following audience members spoke:

John Kareckas: Stated that a few weeks prior Mr. Kareckas phoned Terry Oliver, PWD regarding an accident involving a manhole on Parent and Young streets. He was told it was an issue for the Sewer District. Mr. Oliver contacted Skip Clough for these manholes to be fixed. Currently, the manholes are not fixed, and people are swerving to avoid them.

Mr. Dionne noted that Hussey was fixing it.

Mr. Kareckas stated that the dip in the pavement is still present.

District members will have Skip Clough follow up and address the issue.

John Kareckas: Discussed Discharge Licensing and the proposed changes in language. He noted it would be a great opportunity for the District to make suggestions to the Town Council regarding an engine noise ordinance. He has reviewed MDOT paperwork and noted that the Town can do a traffic ordinance with advisory signs. Currently, there are no traffic, calming measures. Mr. Kareckas provided District members a print out of Scarborough's noise ordinance and MDOT regulations, and stated he would like District to take the information into consideration.

Mr. Gray noted that the Sewer District will regulate septic haulers, and the District has enforcement power. However, the District needs to depend on abutters who complain about truck noise to take further action.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Undated; Dennis Smith to The Old Berwick Historical Society re: licensing changes. Trustees noted receipt of letter.
2. Nov. 21, 2007; Duncan McEacheran to SBSB re: SBSB v. Kenneth L. Morrell. Mr. Harmon stated he has a writ to the attachment which is not defined at this time but that the company does owe the specified amount to the District.
4. Nov. 20, 2007; Richard Donhauser to SBSB re: auditing services. District Trustees discussed hiring a new CPA. Mr. Fontaine would like to receive more quotes from different CPA's for comparison. He will pursue quotes after April 2008. Tom Harmon will put this item on the April 2008 agenda.

5-7. Nov. 2007 Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Employees Health to SBSB re: 2008 Health Trust Rate Announcement and Unemployment Compensation Fund. Mr. Roberge inquired if the District was pursuing these issues. Mr. Harmon responded that the District needs to take action. Ms. Bishop noted money could be returned to the District if not used. Mr. Harmon noted that the District is more stable than most employers. District Trustees expressed concern about affect rates will have on employee status. In response to Mr. Gray, Ms. Bishop stated that what the District pays into account is held into a fund and returned if not used though she does not know the exact figures presently. Dividend returns to be issued annually under 2 year contract. Currently, there have been no unemployment claims.

Mr. Dionne motioned to accept to apply to the MMA. Motion seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Roberge will meet with Ms. Bishop to execute the required documents.

8. Nov. 15, 2007; Continental Utility Solutions to SBSB re: ACH Bank Draft Module. The District discussed the set up of \$1,000 not cost effective for the lack of people using it.

12. Nov. 1, 2007; US Bankruptcy Court re: Sandra Scott-Rainey. The District will hopefully receive all monies owed from the bankruptcy.

13. Nov. 2, 2007; Jeanine Fountain to SBSB re: bill. Ms. Bishop stated that Ms. Fountain was concerned about a high meter bill. Ms. Bishop stated that Rick visited her home and discovered that bill was due to a hose that was left on for a few days. Mr. Gray noted that since the wasted water had not been treated, the District would issue an abatement. Mr. Gray motioned to reduce the bill for Ms. Fountain to reflect the charges in the same quarter of 2006 (9200). Motion seconded by Mr. Forsythe. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Nov. 5, 2007; Mrs. Kidder to SBSB re: manner of statement mailings. Mr. Gray noted that a self-stamped envelope could be provided in an upcoming billing with a letter stating that the District would mail billings in envelopes if the District were provided self-stamped envelopes to do so. Ms. Bishop will send letter.

Mr. Gray discussed the letter written by the Old Berwick Historical Society to the MDEP, and inquired if the District would be interested in responding to the letter. It was noted that the District has never received any inquiries and/or complaints from Historical Society previously. The Town voted 5-0 to support the Sewer District with a letter to MDEP. District Trustees inquired if the letter was written by an individual or the whole Historical Board. The District would like to be a good neighbor and still remains unsure of what exactly are the issues. Mr. Gray motioned to draft a letter to the Historical Society requesting clarification. Motion seconded by Mr. Dionne. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approve proposed 2008 rates.

Ms. Bishop noted that it should not be too difficult to keep separate rate records for different sections of town. District Trustees discussed varying amounts in amending the District connection fees.

Motion by Mr. Gray to amend the proposed user rate charge, raising the connection fee to \$3,000.00 for which in no case shall anyone pay less than \$3,000.00, and establish a rate structure for developed construction projects after a 5-year period to include the original amount charged in addition to an escalator charge, second by Mr. Fontaine, passed unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Dionne to accept proposed rate change as amended, second by Mr. Fontaine, passed unanimous.

2. Continued discussion of Discharge License.

- Regulations: Mr. Harmon will conduct a mailing to those who attended the public hearing notifying them that the District will hold a workshop December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Council Chambers. The workshop will be posted on the District website.
- Call line and web site: Mr. Gray discussed setting up the call line as soon as possible. Ms. Bishop noted that no emails had been received at present. Motion by Mr. Gray to have Ms. Bishop set up a complaint line with Verizon. Second by Mr. Fontaine. Motion passed unanimously.
- Wright Pierce contract: District Trustees will discuss contract after the workshop is conducted.
- Septic Rate Study Committee: District Trustees discussed the goal of the committee is for the District to identify the optimum rate for septic.

NEW BUSINESS: none

OPERATIONS:

1. Beaver Dam Pump Station.

Mr. Clough was not present to discuss.

Ms. Bishop noted no other operational issues.

OTHER:

1. Next Meeting Monday, January 7, 2008.

PAYING OF BILLS:

Mr. Forsythe motioned that the District pay the bills in the amount of \$81,598.03. Motion seconded by Mr. Fontaine. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Dionne motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Fontaine. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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