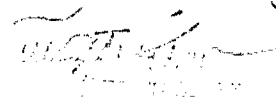


Town of Stafford
Water Pollution Control Authority
 Regular Meeting
 Stafford Senior Center, ZOOM and Call-In
 Monday, February 8, 2021
 5:30 p.m.

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Members Present: Chairman Scott Bonett; Richard Dobson Jr; Mandy Fisher; Roger Thomas, and Dave Walsh

Also present: Superintendent Richard Hartenstein, Jr.; Jane LaMorte, Business Manager WPCA

Index:

1. Call To Order
2. Minutes of January 11, 2021 and January 21, 2021
3. Chairman's Comments – Board Members Comments
4. Old Business – Mixers – Update; Facility Security; On Call Consulting Engineer; Aeration Tank Paint Failure Discussion
5. 2021-2022 Budget Discussion and Possible Action
6. 2021-2022 Sewer Rates Discussion and Possible Action
7. New Business – Route 19 DOT Paving Project
8. Staff Reports (Superintendent) – Plant Update
9. Collector of Revenue Report – Review of Department Finances
10. Adjournment

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Minutes of January 11, 2021

Mandy Fisher moved to accept the minutes of January 11, 2021. Richard Dobson Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

Roger Thomas moved to accept the minutes of January 21, 2021. Mandy Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

3. Chairman's Comments

- Board Member Comments

Chairman Bonett opened discussion with wishes of health and wellness for everyone's family.

4. Old Business

- Mixers – Update

Mixers have been running smoothly. Last task is to reprogram mixers to work with SCADA during reset. The final task is to be completed this week. The Eversource incentive for energy reduction has been received in the amount of \$24,668.

- Facility Security

Superintendent Rick Hartenstein stated that through numerous inquiries, he was only able to obtain two (2) quotes, one each from Eagle Fence and Total Fence. The quotes were very close. Conversation opened with members discussing the necessity and location of the gates and how the main entrance would be addressed. It was stated that a beam, signaling notification of entrance, be installed at the main gate and two (2) automatic gates be installed at the other entrances.

Dave Walsh made a motion to accept the lowest bidder's proposal, Eagle Fence, in the amount of \$29,550, for the installation of fencing and gates. Richard Dobson Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

- On Call Consulting Engineer

Members discussed the pros and cons of having an on call engineering firm including, continuity and general knowledge of the plant, comfort level, protection of the WPCA, the on call firm can be terminated at any time, and the WPCA decides when to engage in engineering services.

This item is tabled for further discussion.

- Aeration Tank Paint Failure Discussion

Superintendent Rick Hartenstein addressed the paint failure and the two (2) quotes received to engineer the repair. He explained that the failure is believed to have started from cracks in the walkway and water finding its way behind the painted walls. This is speculation and will be looked into further once tanks are examined in the warmer months.

Mandy Fisher made a motion to hire Wright Pierce, the lowest bidder, to assist the WPCA with the evaluation of the failing coating system of the aeration tanks and the design of a new coating system. Roger Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

5. 2021-2022 Budget Discussion and Possible Action

Superintendent Rick Hartenstein distributed budget scenarios with sewer rate bases \$360, \$370 and \$400, from the base rate of \$320. The State DEEP recommends that a minimum of \$1 million be available for capital improvements. It is also recommended that the balance in the sewer fund be, no less than, two months' worth of expenditures. Superintendent Rick Hartenstein recommended the budget proposal in the amount of \$1,951,521, with a base sewer rate of \$370. This increase reflects the hold on the increase from last year and to accommodate the expense to pay for the bond for the West Street sewer replacement and the Route 190 pump station upgrade.

Roger Thomas made a motion to send the budget, in the amount of \$1,951,521, reflecting the \$370 sewer rate base price, to public hearing. Dave Walsh seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

6. 2021-2022 Sewer Rates Discussion and Possible Action

Sewer impact/connection fees, permit fees and septage fees were discussed. The board requested a comparison of other towns' permitting fees and to leave that structure, as is, for 21-22 but to reinvestigate it next year.

The Septage fees were discussed going from \$0.075 to \$0.085 a gallon.

Roger Thomas made a motion to send the septage increase from \$0.075 to \$0.085 to public hearing. Mandy Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Scott Bonett abstaining.

7. New Business

- Route 19 DOT Paving Project

There are sixty (60) manhole frames and covers necessary for the repaving of route 19. The cost for the supplies is \$35,000. The State DOT will reimburse for the labor, up to 3 inches of digging, and traffic control, but not for supplies.

8. Staff Reports (Superintendent)

- Plant Update

Superintendent Rick Hartenstein stated that the plant has stopped its denitrification process due to the colder temperatures. Once the warmer months hit, the denitrification process will resume.

9. Collector of Revenue Report

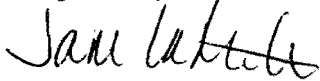
- Review of Department Finances

Total collections for the month of January were \$267,069. The balance of the sewer reserve is \$894,017 and the balance of the sewer fund is \$1,345,079.

10. Adjournment

Dave Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. and Roger Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote, with Chairman Bonett abstaining.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jane LaMorte
Recording Secretary