



Williamsburg Water/Sewer Commission

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Minutes for Meeting on: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 @ 7:00 PM Public Present: David Narkewicz Donna LaScalia Susan Wright Charlene Nardi	Members:	Present	Not Present
	William Turner, Chairman	x	
	James Hyslip	x	
	Eric Cerreta	x	
	Don Hultman, Clerk	x	
	Paul Kennedy	x	
	Brenda Lessard, Secretary	x	
	Others Present:		

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm

This meeting was called to meet with City of Northampton officials to discuss the contract between Williamsburg and Northampton for sewer discharge that goes to Northampton for treatment. In attendance was Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz, Northampton DPW Director Donna LaScalia, and Northampton Financial Director Susan Wright, Williamsburg Town Administrator Charlene Nardi and the Williamsburg Water & Sewer Commissioners.

Mayor Narkewicz stated the current agreement which was signed in 1977 needs updating. The City needs to address the Treatment Plant Capital upgrades that are needed and structure changes. A more modern agreement addressing some issues needs to be in place.

Donna LaScalia did a presentation for the Commission discussing EPA permits regarding discharge into the Connecticut River after treatment. The main issues are the Town's increased BOD and TSS limits which have escalated over the last two years. The BOD has been over limit 77% of the days and TSS has been over limit 46% of the days. These increases have resulted in increased treatment in Northampton and increased testing. The town of Williamsburg has also been sending very high flows to Northampton since July 1st which can be a result of the wetter summer inflow and infiltration issues in the sewer lines or increased tie-ins into the towns sewer system. The discharge which needs increased treatment has increased costs to Northampton in electric supply charge due to increased aeration and transportation. The sampling frequency has increased also. Sampling is being done daily now when it used to be done only monthly. This has increased costs for Northampton. The operating cost apportionment for Williamsburg to Northampton is 17.6% of Northampton's sewage based on size of the pipes and the length of the pipes from Williamsburg to the treatment plant. Costs for Williamsburg include indirect costs, costs based on amount of discharge sent to Northampton for treatment, testing costs, and debt service costs. There are also surcharge fees when BOD and TSS are over limits. Williamsburg's flows have been increased which needs to be looked at. The average daily flow since 7/1/18 has been 134,000 gallons per day. The flows may put Williamsburg over the limits allowed by the contract. The town is approaching the maximum allowable limits which is 140,000 gallons per day.

The proposed new contract has some major proposed changes. The new agreement is designed to invoice the town more accurately for costs to the City, stabilize planned major capital costs over a three year running period to allow the town to plan and have rate stability, the town will need to start reimbursing the City for laboratory analysis which has increased, and the City is proposing a surcharge fee for flow which may go over the maximum allowed limit of 140,000

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gallons per day. The invoice will comprise of operating cost apportionment, surcharge fees (BOD, TSS and average annual daily flow), fixed rate capital costs and sampling fees. The City would like to get an agreement signed soon with fixed rate capital costs starting in FY2022.

Susan Wright addressed some of the costs with the members of the Commission.

Donna LaScalia has been working with the Commission to try to reduce the BOD and TSS issues that the town is facing. Two businesses have been identified by the City as major contributors of these increases. The Commission would like to do more sampling before making the decision to enforce changes with the two business's discharge which could include pre-treatment, increased cost apportionment and sampling by the businesses. Ms. LaScalia stressed the importance of Williamsburg decreasing the TSS and BOD limits and without the surcharges, Williamsburg's bill would decrease significantly. If the levels are down, sampling could be decreased also which would additionally bring the cost to Williamsburg down for treatment costs.

The next steps for Williamsburg include adopting Northampton's updated sewer use regulations, develop and implement a plan to bring BOD and TSS into compliance with allowable contract limits, continue to address BOD and TSS affluent loading from commercial connections, continue to address inflow and infiltration to avoid flow surcharges and to vet all new sewer system connections through the City of Northampton. The City is willing to help the town with compliance.

At 8:00 pm, the city officials left the meeting.

The commission discussed the BOD and TSS issues and how they could positively identify where the issue is coming from. One business has done cleaning of their holding tank and is on a tank cleaning plan and the other has discussed with (wt) putting in a tight tank which will separate the solids from the liquids.

The commission needs to look at the sewer fees. They will need to increase the fee to cover increased costs. The members discussed the need for testing equipment. Motion made (ec) and seconded (jh) to purchase the required testing equipment not to exceed \$10,000. Motion so voted.

Next meetings will be 11/13/18 and 11/27/18.

Motion made (jh) and seconded (dh) to adjourn the meeting. Motion so voted.

Respectively submitted,
Brenda Lessard, Secretary
Clerk: _____