



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of January 9, 2017
Water/Sewer Commission
Town Hall/Selectmen's Meeting Room @ 6:30pm

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Alex MacKenzie – Chairman, Gabriel Berthiaume, Paul Gagner, Rob Lemansky and Joseph Spiewak. Also present, Steven Wandland, Water/Sewer Administrator and Norma Dietrich, Water/Sewer Administrative Assistant.

I. Open Meeting/Warrants/Minutes: Chairman, Alex MacKenzie opened the meeting at 6:40pm. Mr. Spiewak made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. Gagner.

II. Administrators Report: Mr. Wandland reviewed his report as follows:

1. ID badges is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the Water and Sewer Treatment Plant.
2. EJP will be at the plant on January 11, 2017 for meter reader cross training.
3. There was a motor vehicle accident east bound along route 20 the 20th of November. We are still trying to find out if the driver had insurance. The driver was a New Hampshire driver. New Hampshire does not require insurance. Our insurance does not cover hydrants.
4. The meeting schedule for 2017 has been sent to the town clerk for posting, and the Selectman's meeting room has been reserved for those Monday meetings at the town hall
5. The plant now has the generator alarmed through SCADA, both switch gears were tested.
6. Our new employee, Norma Dietrich, started Tuesday, January 3, 2017.
7. Our next meeting January 23rd will be at the Treatment Plan from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

III. Appointments: No appointments

IV. Old Business:

1. N. Sturbridge Rd. Pressure test status. Mr. Lemansky states due to weather, no further information at this time.
2. Draft letter to Treehouse Brewery. Copy of draft letter is presented to each board member to review. Mr. Wandland explains the privilege fee and sur-charge breakdown which is broken down in the drafted letter. It is decided that the Chairman will be the final check point. Once the Chairman approves letter it will then be sent to our attorney for review/approval. Mr. Lemansky then suggests once the attorney approves, the Board should all vote for an approval.
3. Discuss contract renewal for Consultant, Kevin Paicos. Mr. Gagner suggests we renew Mr. Paicos contract month to month and define goals for him. During his time with us goals were not set and he was side tracked which was not his fault. Mr. Berthiaume states a lot of money was spent yet we did not receive a lot of benefits. We need to look further to see if a consecutive water system is even realistically obtainable. Mr. Spiewak agrees with Mr. Berthiaume in general. Mr. Spiewak states he believes the board just doesn't have a clear set of goals of what goals and when we want

to achieve those goals. Mr. Spiewak doesn't believe we can give anyone clear directions to what we want just yet. Mr. Lemansky states Mr. Paicos cannot participate in any meetings with Southbridge relative to water so even if we wanted to bring back Mr. Paicos to negotiate water rate, Southbridge would not participate in conversation with Mr. Paicos. Mr. Berthiaume states there are plenty of other companies at Mr. Paicos's rate structure that are far more knowledgeable in the water business.

Motion by Mr. Berthiaume to not renew Mr. Paicos's contract, seconded by Mr. Lemansky.

Vote on Motion: motion passes 3 to 2 with the exception of Mr. Gagner and Mr. MacKenzie

4. Master water plan contract. Mr. Lemansky states he is still taking a position that the original motion was improper, not binding if we are following Robert's Rules because the chair seconded the motion. Mr. Lemansky states it must come from a member, not the chair. Mr. MacKenzie states that he did read what Mr. Lemansky highlighted but Mr. MacKenzie does not see that but point taken. Mr. Berthiaume states wouldn't this be more beneficial to the town if we wait until Exxon has completed their construction to have a complete master plan put together. Mr. Lemansky states Mr. Berthiaume voted in favor unlike Mr. Lemansky did but believes Mr. Berthiaume can ask for reconsideration of his vote. Mr. Berthiaume asks to reconsider, motion to discuss. Mr. MacKenzie states grant money is for exploration of water sources and consecutive water system and/or our own water system. He doesn't believe the money can be used for anything else but within those perimeters. RFP is in its finals with legal. Mr. McGrath in audience suggests bringing up this subject to the Selectman Board at tomorrow night meeting. Mr. Berthiaume asks Mr. Wandland if he could confirm if we are committed or not. Mr. Wandland agrees he will look into.

Motion by Mr. Spiewak if contract is not already signed, we will not sign contract at this time until W&S meets and re-votes, seconded by Mr. Lemansky.

Vote on Motion: motion passes with the exception of Mr. MacKenzie.

5. Discussion for RFP, billing for water and questions from Mr. Lemansky. Mr. Lemansky states he spoke with John Oatley with Veolia about putting together an estimate of cost to have them do the billing, them operating our water system if consecutive water, operator cost for water/sewer etc for noncontract purposes. Mr. Lemansky doesn't believe we would be in conflict of interest if we are just asking for an estimate and not for contract purposes. Mr. MacKenzie says that might put them out and not able to bid on it. Mr. Lemansky also asks that we sit with Southbridge to see what they are in agreement to when we get the estimate. We can weigh it out and determine water rates. Mr. MacKenzie says getting back to the billing with Veolia do you want to wait until they are present to get a more specified list. Mr. Lemansky said he had a conversation with John about a month ago and he said they can contract to do whatever we want them to do. Veolia will just need a true scope of what you are expecting us to do. Mr. MacKenzie states since Veolia isn't present for this meeting, lets come up with a detailed list of what we want and bring it up at the next meeting when they are present to discuss. Mr. Berthiaume asks Mr. Wandland if the Southbridge meeting is public. Mr. MacKenzie states, he does not believe so. Mr. Wandland says Mr. Oatley is putting together a summary from the Southbridge meeting. Mr. Lemansky asks that it be a policy vs motion for the Co-Chairman to attend the Southbridge/Charlton meetings. Mr. Berthiaume agrees someone should be there on our behalf to represent our users. Both Mr. MacKenzie and Berthiaume agree that one of them will attend these meetings. Mr. MacKenzie says if one of us

cannot make the meeting, we'll go from there with getting someone to attend in their place. Mr. McGrath in audience suggests sending a copy to the Town Administrators Office and Selectman's.

V. New Business:

1. Mr. Lemansky discusses conflict of interest law/procedures that the state ethics has out there. Mr. MacKenzie says yes, the one we do every year. Mr. Lemansky states when reading that, I say to myself we have a commission member (referring to Mr. Berthiaume) whose knowledge is valuable to our commission but cannot do business for the water/sewer department if you follow those rules specifically. Mr. Lemansky says that doesn't seem fair but as he reads, there is a mechanism to where it reads towns have the ability as long as whoever is involved files a statement with the town clerk where a person can be designated a special employee only by the board of selectman or town councilman in town. Mr. MacKenzie states that if he isn't mistaken the person in question needs to go to the ethics commission or ethics board and present their situation to its fullest then get a aye or nah from the ethics then they can come back to the board of selectman or town administrator for approval. Mr. Lemansky states, you are probably right Alex, I just don't remember reading that. Mr. MacKenzie then tells Mr. Lemansky it is up to that person, not the town to do that. Either way, it still needs final approval from the board of selectman and town administrator.

Other Business: No other business at this time.

VI. Next Meeting: January 23, 2017 at the Treatment Plant

VII. Adjourn/Executive Session: **Motion by Mr. Gagner to adjourn at 7:38pm, seconded by Mr. Lemansky.**

Submitted by:
Norma Dietrich
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:



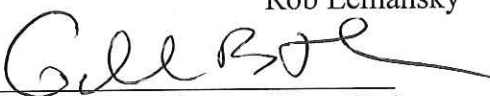
Paul Gagner,

Joseph Spiewak, Clerk

Alex MacKenzie, Chairman



Rob Lemansky



Gabriel Berthiaume, Vice Chairman