

Date of Meeting: December 8, 2005

Kind of Meeting: Business

Place of Meeting: Village Hall

Members Present: Edward Hauser, Chairman  
Tracy Durkin  
Wayne Osborn  
Carol Reynolds

Members Absent: Robert Liffland  
Allen Rundall

Others Present: Jim Fitzsimmons of Dufresne-Henry  
Seth Sheraden of Environmental Consultants  
Steve Mance of Environmental Consultants  
Rich Kane of Environmental Consultants

At 7:35 p.m. the public hearing of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission was open by Chairman Edward Hauser with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Edward Hauser explained there was a budget circulated that had a 9.4% increase in appropriations. He said he took a look at that and thought there were a couple of items that looked like they were over funded. Chairman Edward Hauser said the legal fees were funded at \$11,000 but in fact only \$1,400 was spent last year. He reduced that line to \$3,000. Chairman Edward Hauser said that the engineering fees were \$16,000 last year with a lot of projects going on and it was budgeted at \$20,000. He reduced that line to \$15,000. He said that with the accounting line, only \$3,356 was spent and they had \$10,000 budgeted so he brought that line down to \$4,000. Chairman Edward Hauser said with these changes it brought the total appropriations down to 6.82%. He said if the Commission does run over on either of those, which he said is highly unlikely, there is the \$18,000 contingency that the Commission didn't need to touch last year. He said another item of interest is, the Commission wanted to look into turning the BAN over to a Bond. He said the BAN would be paid off in May and a Bond would be acquired and there would be another \$15,000 interest payment due. He said the \$15,000 is the most significant increase in the budget. Chairman Edward Hauser said he thinks this is a very tight budget, a good budget and he appreciates all the work the consultants did to keep it in line and affordable. He said the district isn't all that big and it's tough for the limited number of people that have to pay.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked if there is any body who would like to comment on it. John Benson from the Pawling Chronicle was in the audience and asked Chairman Edward Hauser to explain the percentages on the budget and is "Debt Service" the proper term to use. Chairman Edward Hauser said yes, it is debt service and he explained the percentages.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked if there are any other comments before closing the public hearing. Bob Murphy from the audience said given the fact that the Commission had to borrow some money this year he thinks it's a very good budget this year. He said it should be noted that the debt service went up 11% but some of that will be made up because of the additional 25 or 30 new users this year will be paying debt service.

John Benson asked if the budget they are looking at tonight will tell the increase in the bills. He asked if they knew at this point what the actual increase will be in some ones bill. Chairman Edward Hauser said they don't have the actual numbers but if John wants he can come into the office and Linda can do an estimated bill for him.

Chairman Edward Hauser closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. then opened the regular business meeting.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Carol Reynolds to accept the minutes of November 10, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Wayne Osborn, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to accept the treasurer's report of November 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve the December pre-paid vouchers and the November, 2005 vouchers as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Wayne Osborn, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to accept the Correspondence Log of December 2, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **Attorney Report**

No attorney present. No report submitted.

#### **Engineering Report**

Jim Fitzsimmons said he received some price quotes for the manhole repairs. REF#119 (Attachment I) He said the recommendation from Dufresne-Henry is to go with Terra Contracting with the Base Bid + add Alternate A which comes to \$17,959.00.

Jim said Rich called Dufresne-Henry about a channel that has eroded so much it's to the point where the force main to the main pump station is exposed. Also exposed are the water line and the electric service. Jim said they should be buried and the best repair is probably just restructuring the channel and putting a decent rip rap mat on it to prevent future erosion. He said there is probably about 50 to 60 feet of channel. Jim said this is significant. It would be a big problem if the sewer main broke or the power to the station. Chairman Edward Hauser asked how they would pack the rip rap around it. Jim said they would want to use a select fill and do it by hand. He said at least 60 feet of the channel should be done, a filter fabric down and then a 6" rip rap so that it won't go any where.

Doug Warren from the Village Highway Dept. was in the audience and Chairman Edward Hauser asked him if he's seen it and if he thought it is something that the village crew can tackle. Doug said no, probably not. Chairman Edward Hauser asked Jim to draw up some simple specifications to send out to get some prices from some local excavators. Chairman Edward Hauser said because this is something that needs to be done right away, certainly before the next meeting Jim can get Linda the numbers and she can let everybody know.

### **Sewer Operator Report**

Seth reported all the general operations at the plant were good and the labs were all good. Seth said they pumped down all secondary clarifiers just as a routine. They try to do that at least twice a year to clean them out and do inspections on them.

Seth said there are still problems over at Baxter Green. The generator wouldn't function, the alarms were going off again and causing alarms at Sheridan pump station. He said the last they heard, Griffin Pump was going out there to take a look at it. He hasn't heard anything. Seth said it seems like a long time for this issue to be resolved and he suggests to the Commission to be careful before taking it over because something just doesn't seem right after all this time.

Seth said the DEC did a routine inspection of the plant and they did say everything at the plant was OK. They did ask for any correspondence the Commission has pertaining to the high level flow and the repairs to the collection system be included with any non-compliance report they submit.

Seth said they have been doing some more work in the sand filters also.

Seth said Rich did note that now that the cold weather is coming the flows have significantly dropped at the pump stations.

Chairman Edward Hauser said he wanted to comment on the nice report they received from the DEC about the inspection. He said the Commission certainly appreciates it and they are doing a good job.

### **New Business**

Chairman Edward Hauser said just an announcement; the town renewed the \$26,400 BAN at 3.55%.

Chairman Edward Hauser said the correspondence from Dufresne-Henry on the manhole repairs and the recommendation from them to go with Terra Contracting. He asked the members what they would like to do.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to go with Dufresne-Henry's recommendation to have Terra Contracting do the work at \$17,959 which is the base bid with the alternate A. All were in favor and motion carried. . (Attach.I)

Chairman Edward Hauser said the Commission should approve the budget, then in January the village and town will approve it.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission 2006 Budget as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

**Commission Member Comments**

Tracy Durkin thanked Chairman Edward Hauser for all of his very hard work and dedication over many, many years. She said to him that he has been a great asset and that he will be greatly missed.

Chairman Edward Hauser thanked Tracy.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to close the meeting and adjourn. Time: 8:00 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

**Visitors Comments;**

Bob Murphy thanked Chairman Edward Hauser for all of his hard work over the years. He said he sat along side him for 12 years, 10 of those as Chairman and Ed's knowledge and experience brought a lot of stability to the Sewer Commission. Bob said a lot of people don't realize that the Sewer Commission is a very, very important taxing district and his hard work helped bring it back on it's feet and it's so appreciated and he will be missed.

Chairman Edward Hauser said thank you.

Doug Warren said he would like to echo the same thing as Bob and on top of that he would like to thank Environmental Consultants for all of their help. He said it's a pleasure when you can pick up a phone and work together because when you work together you can have the biggest problem in front of you but when you work together with good communication and good understanding it makes things so much easier.

Chairman Edward Hauser said to Doug that he is absolutely right, that it goes two ways too. Chairman Edward Hauser said to Doug that he has been very good to work with and also with the town, Tyler has always spoken highly of him.

Chairman Edward Hauser said he has enjoyed it a lot and he is going to miss it.