

Date of Meeting: February 12, 2009

Kind of Meeting: Business

Place of Meeting: Village Hall

Members Present: Robert Murphy, Chairman
Tracy Durkin
Robert Liffland
Wayne Osborn
Colette Zito
Beth Coursen

Consultants Present: Seth Sheraden of Environmental Consultants
Steve Mance of Environmental Consultants
Glenn Garside of Environmental Consultants

At 7:00 p.m. the regular business meeting of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission was called to order by Chairman Robert Murphy with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve the Treasurer's Report of January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve the payment of the January, 2009 vouchers and February, 2009 prepaid vouchers as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve the Correspondence Log of February 2, 2009 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

Consultants: Business/Reports

Attorney Report

Chairman Robert Murphy said there is no attorney present tonight but he has a short update for the board. He said they are coming to the final end with regards to the pump station up at Baxter Green. He said Scott Volkman is working on finalizing the bill of sale. Chairman Robert Murphy said they hopefully will be able to approve this at the next months meeting but that if any body feels an urgency to do it sooner, they can have a special meeting to approve it. Chairman Robert Murphy told Seth and Steve they should probably start preparing to do the work. Steve said it will most likely take about 6 to 8 weeks any way to get all of the parts in. Beth Coursen asked if she could just quickly give a brief update on the meeting they had with the bonding attorney's. She said Connie Cahill, the towns bond counsel and some technical and legal experts from Castagna, Chairman Murphy and herself, Lou Stadler and the Commissions attorney met to discuss various aspects and possibilities for tax free financing.

Connie is having the tax professionals within her firm do the research and they could anticipate a memo either tomorrow or early next week. Beth said she'll get the memo to the board as soon as she gets it.

Engineering Report

There was no engineer present. Chairman Robert Murphy said he's waiting on a memo from Ron Gainer who filed a letter with the DEC about the future plant expansion.

Sewer Operator Report

Seth reported the general operations of the plant have been normal. He said flows are kind of up. They have it scheduled for the meter to be calibrated.

Seth went over his monthly report.

New Business

MOVED by Beth Coursen, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve transfer of \$6,528.53 from Castagna Escrow #15004214220515 to O&M MMA#15004219514608 for past vouchers paid from O&M for Castagna legal and engineering fees. Beth asked if there is something they can do, like at the town they do a board resolution at the reorganization meeting, so that they don't have to keep approving all the transfers at every single meeting. She asked if they could just pass a resolution to just allow for it. Chairman Robert Murphy said they could probably do a blanket approval of all transfers but that he would like to have all the numbers on the agenda. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Beth Coursen, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve all three other transfers listed on the agenda as submitted. All were in favor and motion carried.

Chairman Robert Murphy said they have a request for penalty waiver from sewer acct.#031 for \$27.42. He said the customer said the bill wasn't paid on time because of the death of her spouse. MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve the penalty credit of \$27.42 to sewer customer account #031. All were in favor and motion carried.

Chairman Robert Murphy said they have another request from sewer customer #284 as requested in letter REF#276. Chairman Robert Murphy said the letter explains the customer did not get the bill in the mail. He asked Linda if this customer is generally on time with his payments. Linda said no. Chairman Robert Murphy asked if he had ever asked for a waiver before. Linda said no, that the customer is trying very hard to get caught up on past bills. Beth asked how much money they are talking about. Linda said it's not that much, a double digit number. Chairman Robert Murphy said he is inclined to give him the adjustment because he has never asked for this before. Colette said she is to.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Robert Liffland to approve waiving the penalty on this sewer customer acct. #284. All were in favor and motion carried.

Chairman Robert Murphy said the next one to discuss is a letter they received from Gloria Masiero of 24 Elm St., REF#277.

Looking at the customers letter and computer read out, Chairman Robert Murphy said they can see that the customers water use is higher than normal and there is only one person living there who is out to work full time. He said working with the customer, taking additional readings, checking for leaks, they found no explanation for why this much water would be generated. MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Beth Coursen to credit the account to an average of what the customer used for the four quarters prior to the past two quarters which are the ones in question.

Chairman Robert Murphy said the next thing on the agenda is the discussion on the correspondence related to the stimulus and appropriations bill for sewer improvements. Beth said she contacted Susan Spear, who is congressman Halls Chief of Staff, to ascertain how Pawling could obtain some of the stimulus money. Beth explained the key points that Susan gave her for a successful request. Beth said the first important matter is on the part of the local government to show that they are serious about the money. She said the other key is that what they will use the money for will create jobs. Beth said following that, she contacted Castagna and Wind Rose to find out approx. how many jobs they anticipate through their projects. She said on the Castagna project, they said they anticipate 1250 permanent positions created. Beth said Wind Rose said they anticipate 150 full time jobs. Their construction numbers are 938 with three to five years in duration. Castagna's numbers for construction are also around 938. Beth said another component is that the project needs to be shovel ready. She explained a lot of areas in the town that could possibly connect to the sewer system, such as Lakeside Park, Murrow Park, Wind Rose, down Route 22 and the main sewer line right there in the village. She said this is her idea for a stimulus request that she feels will benefit Pawling. She said she did talk with town board members to see if they have any ideas. Chairman Robert Murphy asked who would they apply to. Beth said they would apply to the state and she brought a very, very rough draft of a resolution that she did to start things off. She said she put down how Pawling has experienced the adverse effects of the economy, more so than others. Then she goes on to talk about the numbers for the projects. She said the money is for municipally owned infrastructure. The jobs created numbers are not municipal jobs. Beth said according to Susan, this is exactly the kind of stuff they are looking for. Beth said she also talks about increasing capacity at the plant. Beth said if they could get letters of support from some state and federal people that would help with the application process. Tracy asked if there is a time frame on the construction. Beth said she doesn't know. Chairman Robert Murphy asked if this is an all or nothing thing. Beth said they don't even know yet. Beth said the biggest thing they are looking for is jobs created. She said a lot of other municipalities are going to go for this. Chairman Robert Murphy asked Beth how much detail do they want. Beth said she envisions that in addition to a resolution they do a one page note with a description of the Pawling wastewater treatment project in which they describe the five components and put numbers in. Beth said also while they have the trench open going down Route 22, NYSEG has shown some interest in putting in their natural gas line. There was some discussion on sewer hook up fees if the Commission gets the grant. There was some discussion on grey water. What can they do in New York and such. Chairman Robert Murphy said he doesn't want to make things so complicated. Beth said neither does she but it's important to have these discussions. Chairman Robert Murphy agreed. He said he'd like to see the money go toward plant expansion so it would benefit everybody. Chairman Robert Murphy asked the board if they're comfortable with Beth working on the resolution.

Beth asked if anybody has any language or additional things for the resolution please let her know. She said she'll finalize it and email it to the Sewer Commission.

Beth said on the appropriations part of it, she has a paper copy and she'll forward to Linda an electronic version of it. It needs to be filled out on line and it's due by the 20th. She said she doesn't see where this project will be funded, but maybe the village green project could be.

Chairman Robert Murphy said the goal is a resolution and a description by the next meeting for approval by all of the boards. He asked Beth if she can get this ready by the next Village Board meeting in March which will be the first Monday and then the next sewer meeting will be on the second Thursday. Chairman Robert Murphy asked Beth if she needs letters of support to go with the application. She said that would be great. Chairman Robert Murphy said he'll put it on the agenda for next month.

Chairman Robert Murphy said the next item on the agenda is to discuss a resolution that David Wise drafted, and it will go to the prospective attorneys for the Village and the Town. He said the Village changed their elections to November and the Sewer Commission always coincided with them for their reorganization meeting in April. He said he thought the Sewer Commission would change the date to January like the Town does but Village Law states that the reorganization meeting for the Village takes place the first Monday of the month after the election, so the Village will have their reorganization meeting in December. Chairman Robert Murphy talked to Dave, and Dave sent over the resolution with the date blank. He said he wanted the board to decide whether they want December or January. Rob said yes, to just follow suite and do it in December. Beth said she feels December makes more sense. Chairman Robert Murphy said he will contact Dave to let him know to forward the resolution to the Town and Village's attorneys.

Chairman Robert Murphy said another item on the agenda is the worksheet he handed out with some electrical numbers on it; REF#279. He said the Village just recently received a call from Integrys Energy to change from a variable rate to a fixed rate. He said the Village moved forward with that and thought it a good idea to get a proposal from Integrys for a fixed rate for the sewer plant and all of the pump stations. Chairman Robert Murphy said the Commission currently has a variable rate with NYSEG. He said he did speak with NYSEG about getting a proposal for a fixed rate but they couldn't give one because the open enrollment period is only in November. He went over the numbers on his worksheet. (REF#279.)

Chairman Robert Murphy said he doesn't want to take any action on it tonight, he just wants to explain it to the members and find out if the board is interested in him pursuing this and if so he'll have Integrys send him numbers right before next months meeting. He said if they don't want to pursue it he'll just call Integrys and let them know. Beth inquired about asking Integrys to call her at the town about their electric accounts. She thanked Chairman Robert Murphy for all the work he's done on this. Chairman Robert Murphy asked the members to think about it and let him know.

Commission Member Comments:

Chairman Robert Murphy said he just has two comments. He said he just wanted the members to see the letters Linda has gotten in the mail from customers who are really struggling to pay their bills. Chairman Robert Murphy said he just wanted the board to be aware that people are feeling the pinch.

Chairman Robert Murphy said the other thing he wanted to talk about is, and he asked Beth to bring this back to the Town Board, is with the consequences they are going to face with the closing of the Pawling News Chronicle. He said the newspaper served as a conduit for information between the various boards and the public.

Chairman Robert Murphy said he figures they could report to the various boards and they can talk about ways that they can improve communication with the public. He said they all have their websites and that maybe they have to work twice as hard as keeping them up to date. He said they have a budget coming up soon and they always try to get input from the public and they've done that through the newspaper. He said he was thinking that maybe the respective boards can maybe sit down and try to figure out some idea, maybe actually call a joint meeting of all the boards, trying to advertise it somehow through mailings and website. He would like to get some input from the public. Robert Liffland said maybe they can look into cable. Chairman Robert Murphy said this is why he would like the boards to get together to try to come up with something. Tracy feels that at least in the interim, Pawling Matters is the best bet. She said she knows they don't want to get political but just to announce important dates and meetings maybe. Chairman Robert Murphy said he just wanted to throw this out there for discussion. Beth said she is amenable to the joint meeting of all the boards. She said she and Chairman Robert Murphy has to sit down in about two weeks to talk about the one page document so why don't they talk about a date then that will work for a joint meeting.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to close the meeting and adjourn.
Time: 8:25 p.m. All were in favor and motion carried.

Colette Zito, Secretary