

Town of Farmingdale

Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2015

The Farmingdale Sewer Committee met on Thursday May 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmingdale Town Office.

Members Present: Ben Sanborn, Mike Pelletier, Dana Parker and Jim Grant (Liaison)

Others Present: Angie Ellis, Amanda Ellis, JoAnn Choate, Russell Hubbard, Mike from Mike's Plumbing, Joe from Mike's Plumbing, Ben Laflin.

Mike Pelletier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

+ Ben made a motion to approve the Sewer Committee minutes of March 19, 2015 as drafted.

+ Dana 2nd the motion

+ Vote 3-0-0

+ Dana made a motion to accept the April 16, 2015 Sewer Committee work shop notes as written.

+ Ben 2nd the motion

+ Vote 3-0-0

Discussion: Mike Pelletier explained the problem that the Sewer Department had at 10 Michael Street on May 8, 2015. On Friday a call was received by a resident that there was a sewer back up at 10 Michael Street. The problem came from a pipe that was broken a year ago to a clean out. Ted Berry Co. was called to this incident and while jetting the lines there was a spill. Julian Beale was there with a Fire truck and took care of the spill. This spill was also reported to DEP in the correct time frame. The Sewer Maintenance contractor Ellis Construction was called in to remove the clean out and to repair the damage that was done.

Conclusion Action to be taken: Mike suggested that with the sewer billing to send something to remind residents if they see anything that is broken to please report this to the Sewer Committee. Because of the incident at 10 Michael Street the following invoices were paid. Mike will call Ted Berry Co. and ask for a little better detail on the invoice.

+ Dana made a motion to approve the invoice for Mike's Plumbing in the amount of \$175.00

+ Ben 2nd the motion

+ Vote 3-0-0

+ Ben made a motion to approve Ted Berry Co. invoice in the amount of \$780.00.

+ Dana 2nd the motion to approve this invoice.

+ Vote 3-0-0

+ Ben made a motion to reimburse Sheri Rodrigue in the amount of \$791.27 for cleaning up after a sewer back up into a home located at 10 Michael Street.

+ Dana 2nd the motion to reimburse Sheri Rodrigue

+ Vote 3-0-0

Discussion: Mike explained the problem with the Northern Ave Pump Station. The second pump went down and a spare pump needed to be assembled to replace the pump that was down. Mike has called Scot Scherbon and is waiting for information on what will be done about a warranty on this pump. Angie Ellis spoke to say that Chris Ellis called Blake Equipment and spoke to Don Holly. Mr. Holly picked up the pump and will get back to Scot Scherbon and is not sure if he will warranty the pump it will depend upon what he finds. Angie told the Committee that Mr. Holly is not in favor of the pumps reversing. Mike explained that this is necessary

because of the issues that we had in January. Angie told the committee, that pump #1 is not running as good as pump #2 which is the one that they just replaced.

Conclusion or Action to be taken: On Monday Mike will call Don Holly and Scot Scherbon to see where everything stands. Mike asked for a motion to approve the bill from Ellis Construction.

+ Dana made a motion to approve the invoice from Ellis Construction for work done on the Northern Ave pump station.

+ Ben 2nd the motion

+ Vote 3-0-0

Discussion: Mike explained that we received a quote to jet part of the line on Northern Ave and have a vacuum truck at the meter pit to catch all the sand. This estimate came in at \$4400.00.

Conclusion Action to be taken: At this time Mike would like a motion to have Ellis Construction go in and clean the meter pit again before hiring Ted Berry Co. to come in and jet the line. Dana felt that the meter pit should be cleaned every 4-6 weeks and should be done as soon as possible. Mike also said that Chris Ellis suggested that we could have a sand trap on the upstream manhole from the metering pit and this is a cost but would keep the sand out of the flume in the meter pit. Mike would like to research this some more. ***This will be tabled until the next sewer meeting after the meter pit is cleaned again.***

Discussion: There was a lot of discussion on the invoice from Ted Berry Co. and if it should be passed on to the Hi-Hat in regards to a call that came in on 2/10/2015. Russell Hubbard stated that the Town of Farmingdale ordered this and not the Hi-Hat. Joe from Mike's Plumbing spoke to say that he did not ask for Ted Berry Co. to come down. He stated that he came to the Town Office to look at the maps and that they were outdated and from the 70's and did not reflect where the manholes are. He said that he had to get the information on the manhole from a neighbor and found the manhole under 6 inches of dirt. Mike explained that the manholes have not changed location. Mike felt that the Sewer Committee according to the ordinance does not have the authorization to bill the Hi-Hat and that all the Sewer Committee can do is recommend to the Select Board and the Select Board should make the final decision. Mike explained why he called Ted Berry Co. he stated that he was concerned about sewer backing up into the Hi-Hat and causing some real damage to the structure as well as the business.

+ Mike made a motion to recommend to the Select Board to not pass the Ted Berry Co. bill onto the Hi-Hat.

+ Ben 2nd the motion for discussion purposes only

+ Vote 1-2-0

Ben explained how he felt about this and that he feels the sewer committee needs to follow the ordinance. If there is something that the Sewer Committee feels that they should do he does not want to be caught in a position of second guessing everything that the committee does. Ben feels that when an emergency arises that we should not be thinking of how it will shake out if we do what we believe is the right thing. There are provisions that require grease traps for all the restaurants. Ben feels that this should be sent to the Select Board for a decision as to whether this invoice should be passed on to the Hi-Hat. Ben feels that according to the ordinance that this bill should be passed on to the Hi-Hat and that the only way to not follow the ordinance is to pass this on to the Select Board and possibly the Appeals Board to make this decision. Dana agrees with Ben and thinks that all the facts should be given to the Select Board and let them decide if the Hi-Hat should be responsible for the invoice from Ted Berry Co.

Russell Hubbard explained that the size of the pipe in the tie in is not correct and the pipe is undersized for the Hi-Hat. He also agreed that the Hi-Hat needs a grease trap but thought that they only need an internal grease trap and not an external grease trap. Ben explained that because this is an ordinance that this would have to be forwarded to the Select Board and then to the Appeals Board for a variance.

Mr. Hubbard asked if there is something in the ordinance that states this bill should be passed on to Mr. Laflin. Ben and Mike both read sections of the ordinance that they felt pertained to the Hi-Hat. Jim spoke about the interpretation of the Town Attorney on this matter.

Ben felt that maybe in the past things were overlooked and tossed aside but things need to change and this committee is trying to make sure all rules are followed by everyone. Jim also agreed that the ordinance should be followed with no exception and if you need something changed that you would need to follow procedure and go to the Appeals Board to get a variance. Ben felt that the Sewer Committee is not recommending one way or another to the Select Board but give them the information and let them decide if the bill should be passed on.

Russell Hubbard felt that the Hi-Hat did not call out Ted Berry Co. and should not be charged with the bill. Joe from Mike's plumbing spoke to say he tried to stop Ted Berry Co. from coming down. It was stated that after Ted Berry Co. gave the feed back that there was nothing in the lines Mike's plumbing cleared Hi-Hat's lines.

Jim Grant feels that there has been a lot of input on this issue and feels that if it goes to the Select Board it will be passed on to the Appeals Board. Ben asked why the Hi-Hat should pay to camera the main line. Mike said that he already explained this earlier that he was concerned with sewer baking up into the Hi-Hat and causing damage.

- ✚ Mike made a motion to recommend to the Select Board to not pass the Ted Berry Co. bill onto the Hi-Hat

- ✚ There was no 2nd

- ✚ Vote 1-2-0 motion did not carry

- ✚ Ben made a motion to forward the details of this discussion to the Select Board as well as noting the letter from the town attorney that was sent to Mr. Grant and Mr. Pelletier on April 27th regarding this matter. The Sewer Committee does not have apposition at this time as to whether they should or should not forward this bill to the Hi-Hat and that is a decision for the Select Board.

- ✚ Dana 2nd the motion

- ✚ Vote 2-1-0

Conclusion or Action to be taken: The Committee will look back and see who did the inspection for the Hi-Hat.

Discussion: Jim Grant handed out a draft of the Sewer Maintenance Contract to the Sewer Committee and There was a discussion on when a contractor is called out and that there is nothing in the current contract to state what a contractor would be paid for a call out.

Discussion: There was some discussion on how to approve invoices for the Sewer Committee in the future. Mike felt that he should not be the only one to approve of a bill and that the committee as a whole should be making decisions on whether an invoice should be approved and sent on to the Select Board for final approval.

Conclusion or Action to be taken: It was decided that invoices that come in will be scanned in and sent out to the Sewer Committee, Select Board as well as Julian Beale. The Sewer Committee must then respond within 2 business days as to whether they approve of this bill or not, if there is not a reply from a member of the Sewer Committee that will mean that the bill is approved by that individual. The invoice can then be passed on to the Select Board.

- ✚ Ben made a motion that when a bill is received it will be scanned electronically and forwarded out to the Sewer Committee, Select Board and Julian Beale. The Sewer committee will vote on it prior to the close of the second (2) business day following the day in which it was sent out and if a member of the Sewer committee does not vote on the invoice it will be deemed a yes vote and approved.

- ✚ Dana 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Discussion: There was some discussion again on the Sewer Maintenance Contract and a draft was given to Angie Ellis of Ellis Construction who is the current contractor. By giving Angie Ellis a copy of the contract it is agreed that negotiations have started between the Town of Farmingdale and Ellis Construction.

Conclusion or Action to be taken: It was decided to go over the draft contract and get back to Natalie with any changes no later than June 5, 2015. The Sewer Committee at that time may decide to have another unscheduled meeting to discuss this and if the contract with Ellis Construction is not renewed than this will need to be put out to bid.

✚ Mike made a motion that the Sewer committee gave a draft copy of the Sewer Maintenance contract to Ellis Construction in anticipation of negotiations and renewal and changes.

✚ Dana 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

✓ May have to set up a meeting prior to the next scheduled Sewer meeting on June 18, 2015.

✚ Mike made a motion to have Ellis construction clean the Meter Pit the last week of May or the first week of June at Ellis Construction convenience.

✚ Dana 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Discussion: The following is a list of abatements that were presented to the Sewer committee for a decision.

Richard Trepanier requested an abatement for 189 Park street because a pipe that froze and burst.

✚ Mike made a motion to approve the abatement for Richard Trepanier in the amount of \$546.25.

✚ Ben 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Daniel & Judith Towle requested an abatement of \$76.00 for a flow that was charged and they were not living at the home at the time. Gardiner water estimated this not knowing there was no one residing at the home.

✚ Ben made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$76.00

✚ Dana 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Aleana Chaplin requested an abatement for last year for an outside meter for filling the pool and gardening this meter was read by Julian Beale.

✚ Mike made a motion to approve this abatement in the amount of \$29.81.

✚ Ben 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Richard Olum requested an abatement for a pool that will be getting filled sometime after June 21, 2015.

A decision was made to deny this abatement and explained that this abatement would need documentation from the pool company as to how much water it takes to actually fill this pool. This will be brought back to next month's meeting with the proper documentation to make a decision on this abatement.

Discussion: It was brought to our attention that the properties owned by Farmingdale Housing have been charged incorrectly. After having Julian Beale check on these 2 properties we found the following:
260 Maine Ave is currently being charged 8 units and should only be charged 4 units.
262 Maine Ave is currently being charged 8 units and should be charged 9 units because there is a common area used for laundry purposes.

✚ Mike made a motion to change the units at 260 Maine Ave from 8 units to 4 units.

✚ Dana 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

✚ Dana made a motion to change the units at 262 Maine Ave from 8 units to 9 units because of common area that is used as a laundry facility.

✚ Ben 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

✚ Dana made a motion to adjourn the Sewer Committee meeting.

✚ Ben 2nd the motion

✚ Vote 3-0-0

Minutes Approved:

Date

Michael Pelletier

Ben Sanborn

Dana Parker