

Burns Harbor Sanitary Board

Minutes of Wednesday, July 20, 2016

The Burns Harbor Sanitary Board met in its regular session Wednesday, July 20, 2016 in the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Toni Biancardi at 7:04 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Toni Biancardi..... Present
Jim Constantine Present
Rick Balunda..... Absent
Wilbur Oudman..... Present
Nathan Tumblin Present

Also present were Attorney Clay Patton, Engineer Jeanette Hicks, Sanitation Superintendent William Arney and Secretary Corinne Peffers.

Approval of Minutes

Oudman made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 15, 2016. Tumblin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

Correspondence

MidWest Developing Company Letter & Invoice

MidWest Developing Company sent a letter to the Sanitary Board along with an invoice for \$2,592.00 for architectural and structural plans for the sanitation storage building. MidWest had submitted the cheapest quote earlier this year for the new sanitation department storage building and at a previous board meeting held April 20, 2016, the board passed a motion to award the building contract to MidWest developing Company for \$65,800. After the board approval, Superintendent Arney said he met with a representative from the company and built the building on paper and prints of the building were provided, similar to what was done for the fire department's building (which was built by MidWest). Superintendent Arney noted that these were not engineered stamped blue prints. At that time, Superintendent Arney signed to accept the prints, however there was no start date agreed upon because of the draw. The company wanted 6 different draws (payments). With the fire department building, some adjustments were made to the payment schedule after working with the town's legal counsel at the time, and MidWest was agreeable to the changes. The town's current legal counsel didn't feel some of the language in the contract and the payment schedule were in the best interest of the town, and MidWest would not agree with any changes, so the board decided to have a different company, FBi Buildings, build the storage building. Superintendent Arney said he signed the original contract with the company, however, it was destroyed by the representative from MidWest after it was noticed it was in the fire department's name, and not the sanitation board.

Constantine made a motion to have Attorney Patton handle the situation with MidWest Developing Company. Tumblin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

Sanitary Report

Superintendent Arney briefly discussed the data contained on the monthly report and stated Eagle Services was out with a camera to find the sanitary lines near two businesses that are coming to town and wanting to connect to the sanitary sewers. One is at the old union hall on the corner of Melton Road and SR 149, and the other is Curly's Custom Cycles, which is just down Melton Road next to Mortar Net. The prints show that the town has sanitary lines there, the As-builts show the line is there, however, the property was walked and the lines and manholes couldn't be found. Two of the manholes they were looking for were found underneath Old Porter Road, which have now been marked. Also the taps were found and the line dead ends 200 feet prior to the property line at Curly's. Superintendent Arney said the board needs to consider extending the main through the property at Curly's as well as through the next four-acre parcel, rather than having Curly's tap in to the main and then have to deal with the extension when the next parcel is sold and developed. Superintendent Arney noted he is giving the board a heads up at this point, as Curly's still has to present plans to the Plan Commission and Sanitary Board. Curly's is currently clearing his lot in preparation to build.

The owner of Curly's does want to tap on to the sewer and is required to do so because he is within 300 feet of the sanitary sewer line.

Engineer Hicks stated this project would require an IDEM permit, so the board should take that into account to time the project.

Biancardi said maybe the board can check into what it would cost but the board should wait until Curly comes to the board with plans before making any decisions.

Constantine made a motion to have Superintendent Arney get a cost to run the line as discussed.

Tumblin asked Superintendent Arney if he had an idea when Curly will start building and Arney said Curly would like to build before the first of the year, but he still has to be approved by the Plan Commission.

Constantine amended his motion to have Engineer Hicks check into the cost of running the sanitary sewer lines as discussed. Tumblin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

Superintendent Arney also reported that the he is still waiting on quotes from Gasvoda to retrofit the generator. The other primary generator for Lift Station #2 was having issues and was sent to Industrial Engines for an emergency repair. The start box was reprogrammed. Gordon McCormick picked up the generator and brought it back after repair at no charge. Superintendent Arney thanked him for his generosity.

Superintendent Arney said the new storage building is going up nicely and concrete is being poured today.

Engineer Report

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Constantine made a motion to approve Purchase Order #2432 for Miller Electrical in the amount of \$11,989.00. Tumblin seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

This purchase order is for electrical and heating for the new sanitation storage building

Approval of Claims with three (3) or more signatures

Constantine made a motion to approve the claims with three or more signatures. Oudman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

Spending Review

The board discussed the spending review report submitted and noted that there were a few amounts higher than normal. Secretary Peffers will speak with Clerk-Treasurer Jane Jordan and report back with explanations. She did note that the health insurance amount was higher due to the town's contribution to the employee's Health Savings Accounts and Superintendent Arney said the labor wages have increased due to part time employees.

Biancardi asked for a more detailed breakdown of the Other Services & Charges category for the report going forward.

Delinquencies

The board reviewed the report and there were no questions or further discussion.

Flow Report

The board reviewed the report and noted the flow was average. Superintendent Arney stated the meters have been cleaned. There were no questions.

Good of the Order of the Community & Any Other Business

James and Constance Jarosak of 1234 Stanley Street addressed the board and requested that their sanitary sewer tap on fee of \$1,200.00 be waived. Mr. Jarosak stated he is asking the board to waive the fee because he doesn't have a great pension and he retired early. His septic system is failing.

Superintendent Arney explained to the board that the \$1,200.00 fee includes \$1,000.00 for the tap on fee, \$100.00 for a locate fee and \$100.00 for an inspection fee. When the sanitary sewer system was installed, the town allowed residents to tap on to the sewers without being charged a tap on fee until December 31, 2004. After that time, each tap on has been assessed a fee.

Biancardi referenced previous meeting minutes in which the board did not waive tap on fees after the Dec. 31, 2004 deadline. One instance was a tap on the day after the deadline, and the tap on fee was not waived.

Constantine said he feels that there are a lot of older homes in this town that for one reason or another didn't tap on and we know that sooner or later their septic system is going to go bad and he feels that the board should waive the fee and the more important ones are new construction. Prior to the cut-off date, everybody tapped on for free and at that time there were some people that didn't have the money to do the work. The tap on fee is one part, but there is the rest of the stuff that has to be done inside the house and he can understand some of the people not being able to afford at that time to be able to do it.

Tumblin asked if there was a repercussion that could come back to the board if an exception was made to this request.

He mentioned the case of Larry Frain, who was charged the tap on fee after being one day late after the December 31, 2004 deadline. Secretary Peffers said there were a few others that had taken out the sewer connection permit prior to the deadline, but did not get connected before the deadline, and they were all charged the tap on fee.

Attorney Patton stated the previous boards have set some precedents. He said if this waiver is granted, there could be a possibility of people coming to board and requesting reimbursement, or requesting waivers in the future when their septic systems fail.

Biancardi stated there are about 60 homes still on septic.

Mrs. Jarosak stated that when NIPSCO connects you to electricity, they don't charge you to hook up. Mr. Jarosak stated he has been a resident here before Burns Harbor was incorporated and he and his wife have raised 5 children and his septic system was fine in 2004 so he had no reason to think about connecting at the time.

Biancardi said her concern is what has happened in the past and the 60 homes that need to connect in the future.

From the floor, Ray Poparad asked if the board would consider a payment plan with the Jarosaks. The Jarosaks said they would be willing to arrange a payment plan.

The board directed Attorney Patton to work on a payment agreement and the Jarosaks will let the board know when they have a contractor to do the work.

Announcements

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held the fourth Wednesday of August, instead of the third Wednesday, to accommodate the town's budget meetings.

Adjourn

Constantine made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Oudman seconded the motion. Motion carried by all in favor vote.

Submitted by: Corinne Peffers, Secretary

APPROVED August 24, 2016

Toni Biancardi, President

Corinne Peffers, Secretary