

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
JANUARY 11, 2012 – MINUTES
6:30 P.M.**

Attended by: Chair Esther Bushway, Trustee Gary Brown, Trustee Rob Tomilson, Supt. Gary Brooks, Tammy Olson, Attorney Tom Brown, and members of the public.

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Esther called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2011– Rob moved to accept the minutes of December 14, 2011 as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Lien/Foreclosure Update – Rob moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) E, Consultation with attorney on pending or contemplated litigation, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 6:33 p.m. Gary moved to return to regular session, Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 7:25 p.m.
- 5) Oak Grove Street Funding – Supt. Brooks stated that the DEP is encouraging people to apply for money. He said that we were awarded \$259,400.00, but it comes with a lot of requirements. Those requirements include a set of plans with an engineer's stamp, specifications, and the project needs to go out to bid. A portion of the work would need to be subcontracted to minority- and women-owned businesses, although some exemptions for this exist. Our estimate from Barney Silver for the work is approximately \$200,000.00. Rob asked if the awarded money is a grant, and Supt. Brooks said it is a loan, but typically the rate is 2% below prime. Esther suggested that the District wait rather than get another loan at this point. Rob asked when the street would be paved again, and Supt. Brooks provided some background on the town, storm drains, etc.
- 6) Boundary Report – Supt. Brooks reported that two homes and a partial lot are not in the District. The maps were reviewed and discussed. The vote process and paper ballot were discussed. Rob asked about how the people that can't vote – three on Buck Hill and approximately two on Stillwater – would be handled. Tammy said we would have to find out how the town would handle that. We have two or three meetings before the June ballot, and we would probably have a public hearing on the matter in May.
- 7) Audit – Supt. Brooks said that our auditor, Nick Henry, did things different this year. The audit is longer, although the cost is only \$100.00 more this year. He then explained how Malcolm Horton handled audits. Rob had questions on compensated absences, sick time, and why the operating revenue figure differs from the cash flow figure. Tammy provided probable answers, but will check with the auditor to be certain. The auditor's suggestions were reviewed regarding strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Third-party review of bank statements was discussed. Tammy stated that our liability insurance company is satisfied with the fact that she reconciles the accounts but has no authority to access the accounts. Esther said that since the insurance company is satisfied with the current setup, she sees no reason to have a third-party review of the bank statements. The

Trustees were all in agreement to leave the current setup as is. Supt. Brooks will provide the town with a copy of the audit.

- 8) Superintendent's Report – a) The facility is operating well. We are working on winter maintenance. b) There was a small issue with the blowers that we are addressing to keep the seals from pushing out. c) Last Monday morning at 5:50 a.m. there was a power outage. Not the whole town, just us. Supt. Brooks described three-phase power and how he dealt with the outage. Three insulators were cracked on Hobson Avenue. Bangor Hydro replaced all three and we have had no problems since. Gary further explained the issue. d) A couple of articles on local sewer rate increases were included in the packet.
- 9) Other Business – a) Supt. Brooks said that Sherry Williams said she would attend tonight's meeting. He described how he explained to her that we get the water meter readings from the Orono-Veazie Water District and that they are the ones that read her meter. Prior to this, she had accused us of lining our pockets with ratepayer money. Gary stated that the discussion continued on Facebook, and copies of the Facebook discussion were distributed. Supt. Brooks then explained the issue of how the Friday phone call ended, and his Monday conversations with both Michelle at the Orono-Veazie Water District and Mrs. Williams. He also provided the Trustees with information to answer Mrs. Williams's question about why our rates are similar to Bangor's when they are a city of 35,000. b) Tammy told the Trustees that five of our business customers are billed monthly by the Orono-Veazie Water District but are still billed quarterly by us. One customer, Silver's Mobile Home Trailer Park, would prefer to be billed monthly by us. Tammy added that it would not be much extra work, even if the other four customers also asked for monthly bills. The Trustees agreed that Tammy could bill Silver's monthly.
- 10) Adjournment – Rob moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:32.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2012 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved February 8, 2012, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 2/8/12