

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
MARCH 9, 2011 – MINUTES
6:30 P.M.**

Attended by: Chair Steven Theborge, Trustees Gary Brown and Esther Bushway, Supt. Gary Brooks, and Tammy Olson.

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Steve called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2011, February 17, 2011, and March 2, 2011 – Esther moved to accept the minutes of February 9, 2011 as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes. Esther moved to accept the minutes of February 17, 2011 as written; Gary seconded. Steve stated that he thought they accurately reflected the meeting. Vote 3-0, passes. Gary moved to accept the minutes of March 2, 2011 as written; Steve seconded. Vote 2-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Delinquent Update – a) Tammy reported that 24 postcard reminders and 6 warning letters went out this week. That number of postcards is on the low end of normal, and 6 warning letters is a very low number. However, there is a group of accounts that are now owe for three quarters, and we are plugging away at them. b) Travis Noyes attempted to pay his bill. We got a check in the mail for \$120 yesterday which would have paid off the oldest two quarters, but he didn't fill out the "legal line" where the amount of the check is written out. The bank would not take the check, so it was returned to be completed. Although he was due for a Notice of Debt, one will not be sent if the check comes back to us in a timely manner. c) Tammy reported that the Henderson house on School Street is no longer under the estate and that Dean and Peter Henderson own it as joint tenants. They will be receiving a foreclosure notice before the oldest lien matures. The Joyces have been sent a foreclosure notice for their oldest lien. They usually pay before the deadline. d) A couple of names from the list are now gone. Patricia Bastey has paid her bill in full, and Charles Treadwell's mother has paid his bill in full. She will now receive a copy of the bill. e) Esther asked about Jeannine Dye. Tammy said she had called to start a payment plan, but that no payments were received. Steve asked if any of the people at the top of the list are new to the list, and Tammy said that some may have gotten reminders and warnings but they were not delinquent enough to get Notices of Debt except for Laura and John Horvath. The Crowe properties were briefly discussed.
- 5) Rate Increase Discussion – a) Supt. Brooks reviewed the Area Rate Increases sheet, particularly the new information such as Winterport. Winterport just added a debt retirement charge within the last two years. Tammy created a spreadsheet with the 2010 water usage of all ratepayers. Steve stated that according to this spreadsheet, 72% of ratepayers use less than 2,000 cubic feet of water. Steve described his proposal for rates without a debt retirement charge and provided examples. b) Since the Town of Veazie newsletter came out, Supt. Brooks got one call from a ratepayer who thanked us for stepping back and looking at the rate increase again. Supt. Brooks explained that a rate increase is necessary, but we are still working on how we will do it. c) Steve summarized

his proposal of no debt retirement and no minimum, but added that anything was on the table. He is concerned that rates calculated this way may be too high for commercial customers. d) The budget draft was distributed. Salaries as a percentage of the budget were discussed, as were health insurance costs. e) Contract operations were discussed. Supt. Brooks said the biggest savings in contract ops is in chemicals and energy, and we don't use chemicals. Steve said that contract ops at best would break even with current costs unless two full-time positions could be eliminated because we run such a tight ship.

- 6) Assessment – a) The assessment letter was reviewed. Tammy pointed out that in 1989 the assessment was \$90,000, and that when inflation is accounted for, that is equal to \$154,000 in 2010 dollars. b) Supt. Brooks stated that the estimate for the Oak Grove Street work came in at approximately \$200,000. Steve suggested adding capital expenses to the budget. c) Engineering was discussed. New sewer would need engineering, whereas replacing existing pipes would not. d) Tammy contacted the Penobscot River Restoration Trust to see if they were going to continue to pay property taxes to the Town of Veazie for the dam. They stated that their attorney has advised them not to pay the property taxes, but that they “probably would.”
- 7) Superintendent's Report – a) There were no violations in February. The facility was operating great until we got 2.8 inches of rain. All ponds were as low as they could go. There were no problems here. The County Road pump station overflowed for 12 hours; the overflow was very diluted. Supt. Brooks described the alarm and the reporting of it. b) Supt. Brooks will be out of the office from March 15-25.
- 8) Other Business – a) The budget will be discussed at the next meeting. b) Steve expressed his appreciation of all the work Supt. Brooks and Tammy have done, and Esther and Gary added their thanks.
- 9) Adjournment – Esther moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:19

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 13, 2011 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved April 13, 2011, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 4/13/11