

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
MARCH 10, 2010 – MINUTES
6:30 P.M.**

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

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Steve called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2010 – Esther moved to accept the minutes of February 10, 2010 as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) County Road VFD's – There have been no changes in the quest for funding for the VFD project. Supt Brooks said he talked with John from MRWA yesterday and John was going to call Efficiency Maine on behalf of us as well as other wastewater and water facilities who want to use VFD's to save energy. Supt Brooks said this will not be on the agenda again until we receive funds, or the project has move forward.
- 5) Budget Draft – Trustees received a draft 2010 – 2011 budget. Not a lot of change from last year. As it looks right now this draft is \$1,000.00 less than last budget. We will see savings in health insurance, fuel oil and electricity. We had a mild winter so the heater in the generator did not operate as much and we kept a close watch on the blowers/D.O. in the lagoons and will see savings there. Steve asked when we will want to pass the budget. Supt Brooks said the May meeting. Steve mentioned the number of foreclosures and how that could affect the budget. Supt Brooks said that recently, the banks and mortgage companies have been paying off the debts, we just received a check Friday for \$900.00 to pay off a lien from a mortgage company and the local banks have been pretty good about paying outstanding bill when they take a property over.
- 6) Assessment – Trustees received a copy of a letter to the town and a sheet showing the history of the assessment. The assessment has stayed the same for the last three years at \$140K. Supt Brooks said he has been attending council meetings and it sounds like there may be some changes going on with the town. Councilors are talking like they want to take a more active role in the budget and sound like they want to make some cuts. There was some discussion, and then Steve said that our budget looks good and he would like to keep the assessment the same as last year. Gary moved to assess the town \$140,000.00, Esther seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 7) Superintendent's Report – a) Supt Brooks said there were no violations for February and the plant is operating well at this time. The rain we got last month did cause a few problems, but it also got rid of the snow and that has helped with the March flows.
b) The Trustees received a letter in their packets addressed to the DEP about proposed rule Chapter 583, which includes phosphorus removal. Supt Brooks said that as the letter mentioned, lagoon systems will not be able to meet the proposed limits; however, we may not be affected in the near future due to our dilution factor. As everyone knows algae uses phosphates and there have been some large algae blooms on the Penobscot

River. If some groups have their way, it will affect everyone at some point. The new phosphorus limits will be set at 30 ppb (parts per billion) and some groups would like to see these limits lower. Esther asked how much we contribute to the problem? Supt Brooks said not much, when they mention the blooms, they're usually up river from us. In the past, paper mills added phosphate to their process to get the treatment to work better. Supt Brooks said he will be submitting these comments tomorrow and hopefully they will show up on the website. d) We had a small problem with one of the pumps at the County Road pump station. A piece of wood got lodged in the impeller and was jammed in there far enough to cause a problem with the seal. We pulled the pump, brought it back here to take it apart and replace part of the seal. Years ago we had seal issues and were pulling the pumps frequently until Supt. Brooks found a titanium seal to replace the ceramic seal. The seal two parts and one part is carbon, and it was the carbon piece that was damaged. We haven't had to work on the seals since Travis was hired, so I worked with him and now he'll be fine if there is ever a problem in the future. e) Just a heads up, we may be needing to replace three of our computes the summer. Tammy's computer shut down on her a couple weeks ago and between Tammy, Tammy's husband Eric and Travis it was determined that it was the power supply. Tammy and Eric had one at home that worked and that we could borrow, so Travis installed it and it has been working fine. Tammy's computer is six or seven years old and she has had other issues with it and has been able to keep it going. This computer does all the administrative/financial, billing payroll, etc. Steve asked if it was backed up? Yes, every Friday. The SCADA computer is ten years old and is just doing what is needed. This computer is not used for anything other than the SCADA and is not connected to the internet. Supt. Brooks' computer has had some issues, but while on vacation Tammy worked on it and it has been OK since. Eric builds computers so we'll have him build them, that way we can get what we need and not a lot of bells and whistles that we'd never need or use. f) Called about the blower VFD that quit operating a couple months ago and it is in route. It needed to be ordered. Our electrician, Mike, said he runs into this all the time now because no one stocks this stuff any more and it all has to be ordered.

- 8) Other Business – Esther asked what would happen if we can't meet phosphorus limits? Supt. Brooks explained that if Veazie received limits it can't meet, you could add a tank and other equipment to meet the limits, or build a large pump station where the headworks building is and pump to Orono or Bangor. Supt. Brooks said he has heard through the grapevine that the DEP would be happy with something like that. In both, the water and wastewater fields, operators are retiring and there is no one to take their place and the DEP would like to see fewer plants. You would need to build a large pump station where the headworks building is and build a sewer main to Orono (or Bangor). You would still be responsible for the pump stations and collection system and pay them to treat the waste.
- 9) Adjournment – Esther moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 7:19.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 14, 2010 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved April 14, 2010, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 4/14/10