

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
APRIL 13, 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 March 9, 2011 – Esther moved to accept the minutes of March 9, 2011 as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda. Steve asked if we received the check back from Travis Noyes; Tammy said that we had.
- 4) Rate Increase Discussion – Supt. Brooks said that we haven't done a lot more work on the increase due to vacations. He distributed the 2008 Rate Survey from MRWA. Supt. Brooks reported that only 3 of 103 communities surveyed have no minimum or debt retirement. Six are tax funded, including MDI, even though a lot of residents are on septic systems. Supt. Brooks discussed eliminating the debt retirement with another superintendent, and that operator pointed out that it is risky to have no debt retirement and no minimum. Another operator just went to a debt retirement charge two years ago and gave his opinion that we should not get away from it. There was some discussion on the town attempting to save money. Supt. Brooks then said that his proposal is to leave the current debt retirement charge alone, and there was some discussion on lowering the assessment. He then did some calculations on the rate needed, and reviewed the state letter regarding replacement funds. The history of the assessment was briefly discussed. Minimum charges were then discussed, and the Trustees asked for minimums of 600, 700, and 800 cubic feet to be looked at.
- 5) Gathering Freedom of Information Material – The Trustees reviewed the two letters from Macdonald & Dalton, P.A. as well as our response. The Trustees agreed to ask for prepayment.
- 6) Budget Draft '11 – '12 – Contract operations were discussed. The budget will be reviewed and approved at the May meeting.
- 7) Superintendent's Report – a) There were five violations last month due to rain and snow/rain. Steve asked if the violations were based on the old or new license, and Supt. Brooks said the new one. He reported that flows are currently high and probably will be high for a while. We received 4 inches of rain last month plus the snowmelt. b) The District report for the annual town report is due May 2. A rough draft was discussed. Esther liked the paragraph about how all staff members are licensed operators, but suggested rewording it so that it didn't sound like we had more employees than we actually do. c) Barney would still like to start the Oak Grove project. We do not have the funds to do it, even with his offer of paying only half now and the rest in installments. The town needs drain work, and we shouldn't do our work without them doing their

work. d) Supt. Brooks asked the Trustees if they wanted to change auditors before the next audit and the Trustees said they have no concerns with our current auditor and are happy with the process. e) The town's mowing RFP was briefly discussed. The Trustees said they are interested in seeing how the town does with contracted mowing, and they would also like to see how much time and money we spend on mowing. They may consider going in with the town on mowing in the future. f) Supt. Brooks and Tammy will be attending MEWARN training on April 26. It is a mutual aid system for Maine wastewater emergencies.

8) Other Business – Tammy distributed FOAA training certificates to Esther and Gary.

9) Adjournment – Esther moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:12.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 11, 2011 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved May 11, 2011, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 5/11/11