

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
MAY 9, 2012 – MINUTES
6:30 P.M.**

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

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Esther called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2012 – Gary moved to accept the minutes of April 11, 2012 as written; Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – Item 8a – Holding Tank Waste was added to the agenda.
- 4) Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(E) – Gary moved that they go into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(E) to discuss pending/contemplated litigation with the District's attorney; Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 6:34 p.m. Gary moved to come out of Executive Session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(E); Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 6:48 p.m.
- 5) Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(A) – Gary moved that they go into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(A) to discuss employment contract with the District's attorney; Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 6:49 p.m. Rob moved to come out of Executive Session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(A); Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 7:28 p.m. Gary moved to agree to the contract developed in Executive Session; Esther seconded. Vote 2-1, passes. Attorney Tom Brown explained that some changes needed to be made to the contract. His office will make the changes and the Chair will sign the contract. The contract will run retroactively from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.
- 6) Boundary Ballot/Vote Discussion – Attorney Tom Brown explained the District boundaries. To expand these boundaries, the voters within the District must approve the expansion first, and then the District can go to the Legislature and have the Charter changed. Attorney Brown described the recommended expansion and how it needs a vote of the District in the manner in which the District normally votes. Attorney Brown briefly discussed the contracts that should exist with the owners of property currently located outside of the District, and how those contracts should include the lien process. Rob asked if liens on those properties would be higher than bank notes like those within the District, and Attorney Brown said that going forward they should. Rob asked if the property in Orono should include a mil rate assessment because that homeowner doesn't pay Veazie property taxes. Attorney Brown said you could charge a different rate. Supt. Brooks asked about voting on the boundaries through a ballot at the town election, and Attorney Brown said no because it should be voted on at a meeting per the District's charter. Rob asked what would happen if the homeowners outside of the District won't sign a contract. Attorney Brown said they would run the concern that the District would unhook them. Supt. Brooks explained that when Barney Silver did the expansion, he used CES – the same engineering firm that the District and the Town used. We all worked together to size the pump station for the future, to include Jackson Drive. It was agreed

upon that we would assume it as we would any other development. Barney thinks there was a signed agreement, with the point being that it wasn't a mistake of the District as everyone was in agreement. Esther added that everything was done in good faith. It was the consensus of the Trustees to hold the boundary vote at the District's annual meeting.

- 7) Budget Draft '12 – '13 – Supt. Brooks asked at the last meeting for Trustees to call with any questions on the budget before this meeting, and said that he did not hear from anyone. This version of the budget is lower than the last draft. Supt. Brooks added that we are not putting anything away in our big reserve accounts, such as sludge removal. Rob asked how much sludge there was now. Supt. Brooks explained our annual baffle inspections, and said there is not much around the baffles and probably 1-1/2 to 2 feet around the inlet pipes. He said that 12 years ago, it cost approximately \$100,000 to remove 2 feet of sludge. Rob asked if presently there was no sludge over the vast majority of the lagoon, and Supt. Brooks said less than 12 inches. Rob then asked if it could be another 12 years before we needed to remove sludge, and Supt. Brooks said in theory, that was possible. Supt. Brooks explained the deal the District got for the last sludge removal, and how we would likely not get a price that low again. He also explained the process of sludge removal, including how CES set it up. Supt. Brooks said we need to look at sludge removal and plant replacement reserves. In this budget, he left computer replacement reserve, sick time buy back, and pick-up replacement.

Rob moved to place \$1,000.00 in the O&M to the Computer Replacement Fund; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.

Rob moved to place \$1,000.00 in the O&M to the Sick Time Buy Back Fund; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.

Rob moved to place \$500.00 from O&M and \$500.00 from Collection System to the Pick-up Replacement Fund; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.

Esther asked if there were any other concerns on the budget. There were none. Rob moved to accept the budget as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.

- 8) Superintendent's Report – a) The facility is running very well. Our separated system helps with all this rain. The local newspaper reported over the weekend about what some towns are paying to separate sewer and storm water. Our Trustees doing this over the last 25 years has saved the residents thousands and thousands of dollars. b) The Trustees received information on the insurance through Bangor Hydro. Supt. Brooks said he would like to look into it further. Gary gave him some things to ask about. c) There was a Dig Safe incident when Bangor Hydro drilled for a new pole on Main Street. We were not notified. Supt. Brooks explained how they contacted the Town and the Orono-Veazie Water District. The damage control department of the PUC came up, and they called it a "non-incident." Supt. Brooks will follow up on that. Rob asked if there were any environmental issues, and Supt. Brooks said no.

- 8a) Holding Tank Waste – Supt. Brooks explained the new business in town that will be repairing RVs. They would like to be able to empty holding tanks here when necessary. The District currently does not have a holding tank policy in place. He added that our

permit does not allow us to accept septic waste. Rob asked if we currently have the means to accept this waste, and Supt. Brooks stated that there is a manhole near the driveway. Usage of it would always be supervised. Rob moved to accept the policy as written regarding holding tank waste dumping; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.

9) Other Business – Supt. Brooks asked the Trustees when they would like to hold the annual meeting. Esther said she would check her calendar and get back to him.

10) Adjournment – Rob moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:27.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 13, 2012 AT 6:30 PM