34 HOBSON AVENUE VEAZIE, MAINE 04401 207-942-1536

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

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

- 1) Call Meeting to Order Esther called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2011 Gary moved to accept the minutes of October 19, 2011 as written; Esther seconded. Vote 2-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Lien/Foreclosure Update Supt. Brooks reviewed the conversation he had with Attorney Tom Brown regarding the Crowe properties and taking possession of occupied properties. Tammy reviewed the Town's valuations of the properties. Esther said she would like the District to ensure that the Town's property taxes are paid. Esther moved that the District take possession of the Crowe properties that it has owned since October 9, 2011 barring unforeseen issues found by its attorney; Gary seconded. Vote 2-0, passes. Esther moved that the Trustees authorize Supt. Brooks to determine the minimum bid for each of the properties; Gary seconded. Vote 2-0, passes. The Trustees added that the issue of property taxes can be handled in the manner that the District's attorney thinks is best.
- 5) Superintendent's Report a) The facility is operating well. No fall rains yet and our numbers are good. We continue to prep for winter. b) The utility garage roof was reshingled in less than two days. Doing the work in-house saved the District about \$1,400. c) The District's attorney met with the Town's attorney over the assessment issue. Our attorney states that there are no issues with the way we assess the Town. The Town's attorney, Tom Russell, disagrees but says it is not clear-cut and that a finding of repeal by implication is generally disfavored by the courts. Supt. Brooks said that he hopes the Town will decide to not spend more taxpayer money on this issue. He added that the District already has about \$2,000 invested in this issue. Supt. Brooks added that Erik Stumpfel, the attorney that wrote our assessment memo, is the attorney the Town used when Tom Russell had a conflict of interest with the Town's tower issue. d) There is a COLA this year of 3.6%. Supt. Brooks stated that the Trustees decided in 2009 to start averaging 5 years of COLA figures for increases. The 5-year average this year will be 2.34%. Although the figure is not confirmed, it looks like the health insurance will be going up 4% this year. The increase last year was 9%. MMA and Anthem were briefly discussed. Esther asked if salaries would be discussed in December and Supt. Brooks said yes.
- 6) Other Business Esther asked about the boundary survey. Surveyors were seen in the area today, and since we submitted all the necessary paperwork to them, the surveyors could have been working on our boundaries. The placeholder that Representative Parker placed in the legislature to get the District's charter changed is for fall during the next legislative session.

7) Adjournment – Gary moved to adjourn, Esther seconded. Vote 2-0, passes at 7:22.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 14, 2011 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved December 14, 2011, by a vote of 2-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 12/14/11