

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 17, 2010 – 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 6:33 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2010 – Esther moved to accept the minutes of October 13, 2010 as written; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Account Change Policy – a) The Trustees reviewed the proposed change of name/address form. They asked about property sales, and Tammy said that it is fine to let property sales go the way they have been going when done through a closing company. This form could be used in the case of private sales, as well as any other changes to an account. It also can be used if landlords want a copy of a bill to send to their tenants, and makes it clear that the property owner is ultimately responsible for the bill. The Trustees approved the use of the form, and Steve suggested that we put it on the website so that people can easily download it.
- 5) Rate Increase Discussion – Supt. Brooks said that we need to come up with a strategy. We did the last increase ourselves and sent out newsletters. Due to the old bill format, we could not stuff the bills last time around. Now we can send a newsletter in with the bills. Supt. Brooks also suggested putting something in the town's newsletter, and Steve thought that was a good idea. Supt. Brooks explained the last increase process, particularly how much we involved the town council. Esther said that we should let them know about the rate increase, but do everything on our own. Supt. Brooks said we may be able to have the rate increase in effect with the April 1 billing, since that is the first bill of the year. Steve asked when we would hold our public hearing, and Supt. Brooks said in February or March. We could let the town council know in December, and send a newsletter with the January 1 bills. Steve asked if we would announce the public hearing in the newsletter, and Supt. Brooks said he wasn't sure. Tammy added that we could do a postcard mailing before the public hearing.
- 6) Superintendent's Report – a) We had no violations for October. The plant is operating well. We are dealing with typical fall weather. The flows are up due to rain. It makes lab work more difficult when flows are diluted. We had about 3 inches of rain this month. b) The County Road pump station is operating great and we are pleased about that. We have not even received a high water alarm. The upgrade was completed in August of last year. We are still working some of the bugs out of the VFDs, but they are doing some of what they are supposed to do. c) Wages and benefits will be discussed next month, and information will be in the packets before that meeting. The health insurance is up 16% but the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust is using reserves to keep the increase to 9.5%. Our new policy is still cheaper than what we were paying last year. d) Supt.

Brooks asked if there were any additional questions on the audit. Steve asked if we thought Nick's estimate of needing an additional \$130,000 was realistic, and Tammy said yes. It may be a little high, but it's in the ballpark. Steve asked if we could do the increase in steps. Tammy outlined Ellsworth's current plan to have three increases over five years. Steve added that we need to think about any big work to be done over the next five years such as Longmeadow. Tammy asked if the Trustees were interesting in added the benefit of being able to accept payments over the phone when we do the rate increase, and the Trustees said that they were. e) Supt. Brooks showed the Trustees the road plans sent by Travis Noyes, and they reviewed the plans. Esther asked when the work would happen, and Supt. Brooks said he has not been told of the town's priorities. The town has discussed bonding for the work.

- 7) Other Business – a) Esther asked if we had any idea when the town would be paving, and whether or not we would be notified before the work is done. Supt. Brooks said it probably would not be until next spring at the earliest, and that we might not receive notice. He then reviewed how the town left it up to Travis Noyes to inform the District about Buck Hill, and Supt. Brooks was never contacted by him. Supt. Brooks found out about it when he happened to call Brian Stoyell the day before the work was to be started. b) Gary asked about the flags and markers on Thompson Road. Supt. Brooks said that it may have something to do with the town's storm water plan, but is not sure.
- 8) Adjournment – Esther moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 7:31

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8, 2010 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved December 8, 2010, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 12/8/10