

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
DECEMBER 14, 2011 – 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 6:32 p.m.
- 2) Consider Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2011– Gary moved to accept the minutes of November 9, 2011 as written; Esther seconded. Vote 2-0, passes.
- 3) Review Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.
- 4) Delinquent Update – a) Tammy sent out 40 reminder postcards this month. The average number of reminder postcards needed ranges from 25 to 40, so this is normal but on the high end of normal. b) Tammy distributed the list and reported that she made some improvements to make it easier to read. There now also is a color background on the total due for people that have requested payment plans and those in foreclosure, mostly to help her keep them straight. c) The first part of the list are people that have been sent warning letters and are due for notices of debt. With the first two, they requested payment plans but if the money does not arrive soon they will be put back into the notice and lien process. The second group are those that are three quarters behind. They have received notices or will receive them shortly. The next group are four quarters behind and are firmly in the lien process. They are followed by businesses and the long-term delinquents. Tammy reported that there may be a sale of the Brown property coming up. d) Tammy added that her goal for the coming year is to more closely monitor payment plans.
- 5) Lien/Foreclosure Update – Supt. Brooks listed the Crowe property addresses. Attorney John Hamer stated that he was at the meeting on Mr. and Mrs. Crowes' behalf. He discussed Mr. Crowe's health problems, and added that while Mrs. Crowe thought the bills were being taken care of, Mr. Crowe had been putting all his bills in the back seat of his car. According to Mr. Hamer, Mr. Crowe now realizes that he needs to make things right with the Town and the District. Mr. Hamer proposed an escrow account for future bills, and Esther pointed out that the town would be doing his bookkeeping and that we would then have to offer that service to everyone. She added that he is paying some bills since the properties have electricity and water, and that our only recourse is to lien properties and foreclose on them. Tammy pointed out that the District has never returned properties after foreclosure in the past, and that giving the properties back to the Crowes after foreclosure could set a precedent. Mr Hamer stated that an agreement could be fashioned so that it did not set precedent. Rob asked Mr. Hamer if the Crowes had paid their taxes, and Mr. Hamer said no. There was some additional discussion before Esther asked for a vote. Rob moved to have the District's attorney review the proceedings and make sure everything is in alignment, and then proceed with the eviction process; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes. Rob inquired about changing the locks, and Supt. Brooks said that would follow the eviction process.

- 6) Superintendent's Report – a) The facility is running really well. b) Supt. Brooks said that he discussed the headworks screen a couple of months ago. Sargents can cut the larger screen off, purchase a 1/8-inch screen, and weld it in for approximately \$1,400. Sargents was not comfortable repairing it, as repairs could damage the brush. c) In August, a homeowner called a drain-cleaning company for a sewer issue and we did not hear back other than to tell us that the drain was working. On Friday, Nov. 25, the homeowner called again and told Supt. Brooks that they had the drain-cleaning company come back. There were roots near the main, which was our responsibility. Silvers dug down to the service and found roots growing on the fitting. We TV'd the main, and the main was clean. Supt. Brooks described the location and how a problem such as this can start when one fine root finds a crack. He then discussed the District's policy and damages that have occurred in the past, and what we would pay for in this instance. Rob asked if the homeowners had the problem on their property repaired yet, and Supt. Brooks said no. d) We received a reminder from the insurance company to check mains and to clean and inspected every line every year. Supt.. Brooks said that not many communities are able to do this, and that we will start checking manholes and flows by doing some in each neighborhood. e) The Trustee packets included articles on the sludge removal in Great Salt Bay and the sewer rate increase in Gardiner.
- 7) Wages and Benefits – Gary moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A), Rob seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 7:47 p.m. Gary moved to return to regular session. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:14 p.m. Employee wages and benefits were discussed and adjustments were made.
- 8) Other Business – a) Tammy gave all Trustees an I-9 form to complete and provided Rob with a W-4. b) The auditor letter was signed by Esther and Supt. Brooks. c) The boundaries were surveyed and Rob is in the District. Rob asked if the pump station was out of the District and Supt. Brooks said yes. Supt. Brooks added that it will be further discussed at the next meeting. d) Supt. Brooks said he will hand deliver the Crowe check to Eaton Peabody.
- 9) Adjournment – Rob moved to adjourn, Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:23.

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2012 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes approved January 11, 2012, by a vote of 3-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 1/11/12