

**VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
JUNE 20, 2012 – MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

Attended by: Chair Esther Bushway, Trustees Gary Brown and Rob Romilson, Supt. Gary Brooks, Tammy Olson, Attorney Tom Brown, Attorney Jon Pottle, and members of the public.

- 1) Call Meeting to Order – Esther Bushway called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.
- 2) Elect a Moderator – Travis Noyes was nominated and seconded. Brian Perkins was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations, Gary Brown moved that nominations close and Rob Tomilson seconded. Vote 3-0, passes. Member of the public Michelle Joyce asked for an explanation of the purpose of the moderator. Esther Bushway said that the moderator runs the meeting, and reviewed the agenda and what the voters would be voting on during the meeting. Travis Noyes stated that he would decline the nomination under the condition that both candidates be allowed to speak about why they wanted to be a Trustee. Esther Bushway agreed that the candidates should speak. Esther Bushway stated that Travis Noyes declined, and called for a vote on Brian Perkins. Brian Perkins was elected.
- 3) Elect a Trustee for a 3-Year Term – Brian Perkins opened the floor for nominations for Trustee. Jim Parker was nominated and seconded. Bob Rice was nominated and seconded. Brian Perkins asked if there were any more nominations. There being none, Brian Perkins asked for a motion to close nominations. There was a motion and a second; Brian Perkins called for a vote by a show of hands. The vote passed and nominations were closed.

Brian Perkins asked Mr. Parker if he would like to speak first. Jim Parker said that he would like to get something off his chest first, and then he would speak about why he wanted to be a Trustee. He stated that he has been approached by people stating that his purpose for running was to fire Supt. Brooks. He stated that is not what he is after. He then explained that what he is after is to get the jurisdiction lines straightened out; that the District should put the names of the Trustee candidates on the Town ballot to get a good turnout of voters so there's an opportunity for voters to ask about their positions; and the District should be audited. He said that he was on the Orono-Veazie Water District Board of Trustees for 35 years and that they were reviewed by the PUC and added that the Veazie Sewer District is not audited and not reviewed by anyone other than the Trustees. He said the District should be audited once a year. Supt. Brooks said that it is, and Jim Parker said it's not.

Jim Parker added that he worked with the District in 1972, that he has a license to run the District, and that he has put 30 years of his life into this system. He wants to see it succeed. He said the District currently has a decent operator. He just wants to see more openness.

Supt. Brooks asked Moderator Brian Perkins if he could speak, and Brian Perkins said he would allow it. Jim Parker said that he preferred that Mr. Brooks sit down.

Supt. Brooks said that the District is audited every year. The Town gets a copy every year that is kept in the Town office. This year the audit was online in a council packet. The District is not governed by the PUC, and the PUC does not audit sewer districts. But the District does have an auditor, Horton and associates out of Ellsworth. Jim Parker looked at it and said it is a financial statement, not an audit.

Bob Rice then spoke, stating that he had no axe to grind. He explained his past experience and his current position as a university professor. He has worked with environmental issues for 20+ years. His first concern for the District is to maintain safety throughout the system. He discussed fines that other sewer systems have faced. He said the State oversees our sewer systems and watches them very carefully. Other systems have lists of violations; the Veazie Sewer District has very few and he would like to keep it that way. He is also concerned about efficiency. He thinks that everyone should be able to see the District's budget every year. He added that he has heard talk over the years about bringing in a private company to run the District and provided examples of other Districts that have done so and not done well.

Travis Noyes called for a point of order and told Bob Rice that he was not explaining why he wanted to be a District Trustee. Bob Rice stated that he will.

Bob Rice continued to state that it is possible to introduce new efficiencies and keep rates down, and that he would like to be involved in this process. He wanted to help keep costs down and not spend money that would affect the Town's budget. He was asked by a member of the public about information being available, and Bob Rice stated that he believed in transparency and that information should be available to the public.

Member of the public Steve Thebarg asked if both candidates were committed to attend all meetings. Bob Rice stated that unless there were unusual circumstances, he would be at the meetings. Jim Parker said that his committee meetings – including the one that oversees the DEP – all end by 4 in the afternoon, and that they are always excused without question when they have a meeting to attend. He added that he only missed 2 meetings of the Orono-Veazie Water District and attended 389 of those meetings.

Member of the public Michelle Joyce asked if there was a conflict of interest with Jim Parker overseeing the DEP. Jim Parker said no and further explained. Moderator Brian Perkins asked the District's attorney to comment. Attorney Tom Brown said that the issue was unclear, and added that if the new board wants to look into it, they will. If not, the issue will not be pursued. Travis Noyes asked who asked the attorneys whether or not there was a conflict of interest. Rob Tomilson added that a more pertinent question is how the District can have an employee that is an elected official on the Town council.

Member of the public Pat Joyce asked if Jim Parker would recuse himself of any votes related to CES. Jim Parker stated that he is no longer involved with CES.

Moderator Brian Perkins stated that both candidates have spoken, and called for a vote. Member of the public Marilynn Bishop asked for a secret ballot; Rob Tomilson seconded. Moderator Brian Perkins stated that the attorneys would check the charter. The attorneys stated that a secret ballot was allowed. Vote 61-33, passes. There was some discussion on how the secret ballot would be held.

Member of the public Chris Dalton and Town Manager Joe Hayes counted the votes. The final vote was Jim Parker, 57 and Bob Rice, 52.

- 4) Vote on Expansion of District Boundaries – Rob Tomilson moved that this vote be conducted by a show of hands; motion seconded. Vote passes. The vote to extend the northwest boundary of the District to encompass all of the territory of the Town of Veazie lying southeast of the highway known as Interstate Highway 95 passes unanimously.
- 5) Transact Such Other Business as May Properly Come Before the Meeting –a) Jon Parker states that he is requesting who inquired with the District about the conflict of interest of Jim Parker serving as a Trustee and added that he would follow that up in writing. b) Member of the public Karen Walker presented Esther Bushway with flowers and her thanks for all of her service.
- 6) Adjournment – There was a motion and a second to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., vote passes.
- 7) Rob Tomilson moved to reconvened the meeting to elect a Chair and Clerk/Treasurer, and to swear in the new Trustee; Gary seconded. Vote 3-0, passes.
- 8) Oath of Office – Tammy Olson administered the Oaths of Office. Jim Parker was sworn in as Trustee.
- 9) Election of Chairman –Jim Parker nominated Rob Tomilson for Chair; Rob Tomilson seconded. Vote 2-1, passes.
- 10) Election of Clerk/Treasurer –Jim Parker nominated Gary Brown as Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Tomilson seconded. Vote 2-0, passes with Gary Brown abstaining.
- 11) Oath of Office – Tammy administered the Oaths of Office. Rob Tomilson was sworn in as Chair and Gary Brown was sworn in as Clerk/Treasurer.
- 12) Chair Rob Tomilson asked if there was any other business. Supt. Brooks stated that he needed contact information from Jim Parker. Supt. Brooks asked Rob Tomilson how he wanted the agendas done. The Trustees requested District emails accounts, and the Freedom of Access Act responsibilities of those emails was discussed. Jim Parker asked Attorney Tom Brown to hold on to the ballot votes for a month.
- 13) Adjournment – Rob Tomilson moved to adjourn the meeting; Gary Brown seconded. Vote 3-0, passes at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes approved July 11, 2012, by a vote of 2-0.

Gary Brown, Secretary. 7/11/12