

## **PORT EWEN WATER AND SEWER BOARD MEETING**

**JANUARY 14, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Port Ewen Water & Sewer Board was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 with the following members in attendance:

Donald Kiernan, Port Ewen Water & Sewer Superintendent

Mike Dauner, Port Ewen Water & Sewer Foreman

Michael Mulligan

George Post

Kevin Rentfrow

Michael Tronolone

Chris Farrel, Liaison from the Esopus Town Board.

Also attending was resident Steve Cerini. Absent was Douglas DeKoskie, chairman.

Since a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by acting Chairman Kevin Rentfrow.

### 1. MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2019 MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE POST AND SECONDED BY MICHAEL MULLIGAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2019 MEETING. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

### 2. TANK REPLACEMENT - CLEARING - BORINGS - RIGHT OF WAY

Superintendent Kiernan reported to the Board that borings on the tank property will take place in the next two weeks. Billing will come through the project (Brinier & Larios). In February Aqua Store will talk to the Town Board. In April the project will go out for bid. In July, August and September construction will take place.

Regarding the site work: The access road will be the same one used since 1975. The road is part of the estate of Ken Silver and part of Lake Shore Villas. It will be used "the way it is." Attorney Paul Kellar stated that Ulster County declared the right-of-way map "does not exist." Superintendent Kiernan recalled seeing the map during the Somerset Project, however. Commissioner Michael Mulligan asked if there has been a title search, with easement on those titles. The superintendent replied that

there have been many searches for the right-of-way. Commissioner Michael Tronolone inquired about grade and gravel. Superintendent Kiernan replied that concrete trucks need to use it. Mr. Tronolone asked about having a turn-around by the tank area.

Commissioner Kevin Rentfrow asked about water in the new tank. The superintendent replied that the new tank will slowly be filled while the water in the old tank is used. The new tank will be filled, tested, drained and then filled again.

Superintendent Kiernan noted that the new tank will have new amenities. It will have a mixer, a new relay system to the plant, security cameras.

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that the project is moving along. Back in December the purchase price of \$ 4,000 was sent to Mr. D'Anna.

### 3. DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT - TIGHE & BOND - GRANT

Tighe & Bond have stated that in order to avoid an audit, the annual amount to spend toward drinking water infrastructure is \$ 750,000. Commissioner Kevin Rentfrow inquired if an audit would cover both projects (tank replacement and drinking water infrastructure). The superintendent replied yes. Town Supervisor Shannon Harris has stated that the cost of an audit would be approximately \$ 50,000.

### 4. HYDRANTS - REPAIRED/REPLACED

Foreman Dauner reported to the Board that a hydrant on Dick Williams Lane has been repaired. A hydrant was replaced at West Main Street and Route 9W. A hydrant needs to be replaced on Ulster Avenue.

### 5. EMPLOYEE MATTER

Superintendent Kiernan explained to the Board that the employee is currently on a forty-five-day unpaid suspension with many stipulations.

### 6. MICHAEL DAUNER - FOREMAN APPOINTMENT

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that Mike Dauner has been doing the job of Foreman for a long time. Mike does a great job.

## 7. FOREMAN'S REPORT

Two Foreman's Reports are included with this month's reports. Superintendent Kiernan commented that he and Foreman Dauner are looking for another pump company, possibly one located in New Jersey. The pump company in Troy that has been used for many years kept our last sewer pump that needed servicing for six months.

## 8. PETER RETIREMENT 2/18/20

This is the official date for Peter Koelli's retirement.

## 9. NEW HIRE - SHAWNE DE GROAT - STARTED 1/2/2020

Superintendent Kiernan announced Peter Koelli's replacement is Shawne DeGroat, who began working on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 10.LEGAL - RUZZO - DEPOSITION 12/23

This legal matter was cancelled again on December 23, 2019. The next deposition will be scheduled sometime in February 2020.

## 11.MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Commissioner George Post asked if many phone calls have been received now that the new bills have been sent. Superintendent Kiernan replied no. Calls for usage are up.
- B. Superintendent Kiernan reported that after mid-February the rest of the new meters will be installed. Lake Shore Villas will be getting a new meter.
- C. Mr. Tronolone questioned the increased water use on the monthly report. The superintendent replied the water use is fairly typical due to more rainfall. We received fifty inches of rain in 2019. This summer there will probably be more smoke testing in several neighborhoods.
- D. Liaison Chris Farrell began a discussion concerning grant money. He asked how much of each grant will be spent because, if \$ 750,000 of the State grant is spent in one year an audit will be triggered. He also does not want this to happen in the second year. Superintendent Kiernan does not see how an audit could be avoided, given the amount of money necessary for the new tank. The superintendent

advised that 1.8 million is needed for infrastructure improvements (for the next Board meeting he will show what 1.8 million might mean for taxpayers). The superintendent explained that one grant will be for 2.8 million, the State grant will be for 2.5 million, and 1 million will be bonded. This year only interest will be due; next year interest plus some principal will be due (from taxpayers). Commissioner Kevin Rentfrow suggested doing other improvements over several years in order to stay under the \$ 750,000 amount. Commissioner Michael Mulligan recommended stretching out improvements over time as an on-going balancing act. Foreman Dauner asked if the second grant is adaptable. Superintendent Kiernan replied no, must keep to specifics and keep to infrastructure improvements. He reminded the Board that with FEMA we paid up front. It took six years to get all the money back.

#### 12.PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN RENTFROW AND SECONDED BY GEORGE POST TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

#### 13.ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KEVIN RENTFROW AND SECONDED BY GEORGE POST TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Meschi, Secretary  
Port Ewen Water/Sewer Board