

PORT EWEN WATER AND SEWER BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Port Ewen Water & Sewer Board was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 with the following members in attendance:

Donald Kiernan, Port Ewen Water & Sewer Superintendent

Douglas DeKoskie, Chairman

Michael Mulligan

George Post

Kevin Rentfrow

Michael Tronolone

Chris Farrell, Liaison from the Esopus Town Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Douglas DeKoskie.

1. MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE POST AND SECONDED BY KEVIN RENTFROW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that he will meet with Brinier & Larios this Friday, December 13th. There are a couple of legal issues. A right-of-way has not been found. Some trees must be taken down for the borings to be done. The Indiana bats come back in March. A check in the amount of \$4,000 is being paid to the estate of Mrs. D'Anna as a result of eminent domain. Her son has accepted this amount. This follows two appraisals of the property, both resulting in the same amount of \$4,000.

3. DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT - TIGHE & BOND - BILL

The bill from Tighe & Bond is in the amount of \$43,375. It is the hope of the superintendent that, as a result of the assessment, grants will be sought for areas that need work.

4. TAX ROLL LIST - \$ 112,042.10

The amount of \$ 112,042.10 is effective as of November, 2019. This reflects nearly \$ 8,000 higher than last year.

5. HYDRANTS SERVICED FOR WINTER

Superintendent Kiernan reported to the Board that, despite only having three men, the hydrants were serviced and are ready to go.

6. EMPLOYEE MATTER

Superintendent Kiernan notified the Board that the Article 75 meeting is over and has gone to the union on December 5, 2019. The employee must sign the "last chance" agreement by December 16, 2019.

7. PETER RETIREMENT 2/18/20

Peter has many vacation days accumulated, leading up to his retirement date.

8. NEW HIRE - CIVIL SERVICE

The Town Board has met with two Civil Service applicants. Superintendent Kiernan spoke of Sean Degroat, who is undergoing a background check by the sheriff's department. Commissioner Michael Tronolone asked if Mr. Degroat has previous experience. The superintendent replied no, but he could be good in the position and is willing to learn. The Operator Treatment class may be taken on-line within six months; hopefully, by the first of the year he will be working. Liaison Christ Farrell expressed his opinion that Mr. Degroat has a good work history and is teachable.

9. ANSWERING SERVICE - ANSWER CONNECT

Superintendent Kiernan reported to the Board that the answering service is working well. It will work for a water-related emergency. In the first half of November there have been only fourteen calls. Answer Connect will be a savings of man hours and the need for a cell phone.

10.LEGAL - RUZZO - DEPOSITION 12/23

This legal issue is because of a hydrant flushing. Water flowed down a bank on Caldwell Street and into a two-inch crack in the basement foundation. There is a possibility that the deposition could be cancelled.

11.PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

Some information is included with the monthly reports; however, the vouchers themselves are not part of this meeting's information.

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

12.MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Town resident Steve Cerini was present at this Board meeting. He has expressed interest in the possibility of volunteering to serve on the Board. Superintendent Kiernan, along with the Board members, welcomed Mr. Cerini and thanked him for his interest in the Port Ewen Water and Sewer District. Mr. Cerini is a district customer and a resident here for fifteen years. The superintendent replied to Mr. Cerini's questions concerning water and sewer rate increases, the installation of new meters for customers, and the town's plans for the aging water and sewer infrastructure.
- B. The Rondout Harbor generator has been repaired. All generators have been serviced.
- C. Superintendent Kiernan is serving on the Storm Drain Committee. Four or five million dollars is needed. The system is owned by the State and also by the Town. Commissioner Tronolone asked how a break is identified. The superintendent replied that the men usually catch a break quickly; they are alerted when three pounds of pressure is lost.
- D. Once again the superintendent pointed out that the new meters emit less signals than a baby monitor or a garage door opener. By the middle of 2020 the installation of the new meters will be complete. Customers who refuse a new meter will likely be charged a quarterly fee for their old meter to be read manually. The trailer park has had thirty meters installed; their meters will be the

last to be replaced. At the time the new water tank is built the meter at Lake Shore Villas will be replaced.

- E. To Commissioner Tronolone's question concerning Birches, the superintendent replied that water usage is down and the bills are being kept up. Liaison Chris Farrell added that Steve Aaron has been in contact with the Town Board; he was directed to see the list of requirements needed before further action on the Town's part.
- F. Superintendent Kiernan met with an insurance agent; next year there will be new premiums.
- G. To Commissioner Tronolone's question about how the pumps are running, the superintendent replied that they are running well. In the last seven months five of the pumps have been replaced.

13.BILLS - JAN 1, 2020

Superintendent Kiernan explained that the next billing will reflect the new increase. It has been two years since the last water rate increase; in the last fifteen years there have been five increases. Since the City of Kingston treats the Town's sewage, we pay 10.2% toward the plant's operation. The cost this year could be about \$ 10,000 in engineering fees.

14.WATER BREAKS - RIVER RD & 114 RT 9W

15.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 ADJOURNED AT 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Meschi, Secretary
Port Ewen Water & Sewer Board