

**PORT EWEN WATER & SEWER BOARD MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Port Ewen Water & Sewer Board was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 with the following members in attendance:

Donald Kiernan, Port Ewen Water & Sewer Superintendent  
Douglas DeKoskie, Chairman  
Ronald Phillips  
Kevin Rentfrow  
Michael Tronolone  
Larry VanVliet  
Donna McAuley, Liaison from the Esopus Town Board

Absent was Port Ewen Water & Sewer Foreman Eric Balash.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman, Douglas DeKoskie.

1. MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2013 MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RONALD PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY KEVIN RENTFROW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2013 MEETING. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

2. DYNO - CITY OF KINGSTON/ESOPUS AGREEMENT - DISCHARGE

Superintendent Kiernan reported to the Board that there are no new developments regarding this agenda item.

3. BIRCHES

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that last Thursday, August 8, 2013, he received a telephone call from the town's bookkeeper, requesting \$6,700.00 from

the Water/Sewer Department to pay an overdue Central Hudson bill. Superintendent Kiernan refused the request; the bill was then paid by the Town of Esopus, from the General Fund, since Central Hudson was threatening to shut off electricity to Birches' pump station.

Superintendent Kiernan has requested a copy of the tape recording from the Town Board's meeting at which the decision was made, since he was not present at that meeting. Liaison Donna McAuley was present at the Town Board meeting; she felt that the issue was one of public safety. So did the other Town Board members. The item was not tabled because it was necessary to keep the power on. The superintendent felt that the Ulster County Health Department, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health would have never allowed the power to be turned off to the pump station; he is to have a meeting with the Town Board to discuss this entire matter.

The Water/Sewer Board was polled; all members were in favor of *not* paying the overdue bill. The commissioners' concerns included: How could it be legal to pay a private bill? The agencies identified in the previous paragraph should have been contacted before the bill was paid, and should be contacted now. Also, what will happen several months from now? Superintendent Kiernan will prepare a report, summarizing what has transpired regarding Birches pump station since 2007. Two motions were drafted:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOUGLAS DEKOSKIE AND SECONDED BY LARRY VANVLIET TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING TO THE TOWN BOARD: CONTACT THE ULSTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, AND CONTACT THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE SITUATION BETWEEN CENTRAL HUDSON AND THE OWNER OF THE BIRCHES AT ESOPUS PUMP STATION. CENTRAL HUDSON HAS THREATENED TO TURN OFF POWER TO THE PRIVATELY-OWNED PUMP STATION, WHICH WOULD CAUSE AN OVERFLOW OF SEWAGE. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RONALD PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY DOUGLAS DEKOSKIE TO ADVISE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE FOLLOWING: THE PORT EWEN WATER/SEWER BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAKES THE TOWN BOARD AWARE THAT THE PORT EWEN SEWER DISTRICT IS NOT THE CURRENT OWNER OF THE PUMP STATION AT BIRCHES AT ESOPUS. THE PORT EWEN SEWER DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE, SHOULD ANY SPILL OR VIOLATION OCCUR AT BIRCHES AT ESOPUS. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

4. SAMPLING N BWAY -- COMPOSITE SAMPLES

Superintendent Kiernan reported that two times per week samples are taken. Great results, with very low numbers, are included with this month's agenda. The samples will continue to be monitored.

5. FOREMAN REPORT

Foreman Balash's report is included with this month's agenda.

6. 2014 BUDGETS

As per the Board's request in August, Superintendent Kiernan has made some changes to the budgets. A draft is included with this month's agenda.

7. PROPANE BIDS 9/9/13

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that Heritage's bid was the lowest, at 154.9 cents per gallon.

8. V P N

Superintendent Kiernan thanked commissioner Kevin Rentfrow for doing the necessary work. For basic information the billing system can now be accessed through the water plant. Just today Superintendent Kiernan used this ability three times.

## 9. HYDRANT FLUSHING -- START SEPT 22<sup>ND</sup>

A notice will be placed in the Kingston Daily Freeman and may also be posted at the firehouse for hydrant flushing to begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 10.WATER METERS -- GLASCO

Superintendent Kiernan notified the Board that radio frequencies in Glasco have been of concern. The superintendent has not yet seen an expected statement from the Health Department about this.

## 11.TANK INSPECTION FRI 8/30

Superintendent Kiernan reported that the tank was cleaned out very well. Eight inches of sludge was found; as per the original contract, six inches was taken from the tank (it would have cost another \$3,600 to take out the last two inches of sludge). Verbally, the superintendent was told the tank appeared in good shape and could wait four or five years to re-paint. Photographs were taken also. The last time the tank was pumped out was in 1995 when it was painted.

## 12.RESERVE FUNDS

The State highly recommends having a Capital Reserve Fund. Superintendent Kiernan put \$50,000 in the water department budget for district improvements.

## 13.NYS DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND STORM MITIGATION LOAN PROGRAM

Superintendent Kiernan advised the Board that outright grants or low-cost loans are available for infrastructure improvements related to storm mitigation. All projects must be submitted through an engineer. The superintendent will check further into this program and about grant writers.

#### 14.MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Commissioner Michael Tronolone inquired if Foreman Eric Balash is to be present at the monthly Board meetings. Commissioner Larry VanVliet asked if it is necessary for him to be here. Superintendent Kiernan replied that, if the Board wants the Foreman to attend, the superintendent will let him know his presence is requested.
- B. Chairman Douglas DeKoskie suggested items for potential grants. We would pay for a pre-application and/or engineer's report; or we may just need a letter.
  - (1.) Explore the possibility to supply a permanent water inter-connection between the City of Kingston and the Town of Esopus.
  - (2.) Apply for potential funding to raise bulkhead elevation in order to avoid flood waters in the water treatment plant.

#### 15.PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RONALD PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY LARRY VAN VLIET TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

#### 16.ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RONALD PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY DOUGLAS DEKOSKIE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Meschi, Secretary  
Port Ewen Water/Sewer Board