

PUBLIC MEETING
NEWTON FALLS SEWER DISTRICT CUSTOMERS
JUNE 8, 2015
6:00PM
NEWTON FALLS

PRESENT:

Supervisor Hooven, Councilpersons Lanphear, Trembley, Perrault, Zuhlsdorf, Town Clerk Sharon Snider, Highway Superintendent Kelly Smith, Rick Badlam (Town's Resident Inspector), Dustin Clark (Engineer - Barton & Loguidice D.P.C) and Carrie Tuttle (DANC).

GUESTS: Robert & Mairi Meredith, Leroy Peets, Robert, Bill and Amos Reil, Koren Hathaway, and Paul LeRoux.

Supervisor Hooven opened the meeting at 6:00PM and he explained questions from the floor would be taken and answered by Supervisor Hooven, Dustin Clark, Rick Bedlam or Carrie Tuttle.

Question: Bob Reil. 28 River Road and 14 Wilsey. Location of grinder pumps; questioning why the grinder pumps are placed where they are. Control panel locations – how are they sited? Mr. Reil would like the control panel moved and mounted on his house.

Question: Bob Reil asked about why bills are not being sent out monthly?

Answer: C. Hooven stated that 47% of people don't pay their water bills and that the sewer fund could not operate this way and so it has to be billed annually.

Answer: D. Clark – engineer spent time out in the field 3 years ago meeting with property owners to site grinder pump locations. Control panel placement – speaking with the property owners has been difficult. It's been hard to site the panels on the house b/c some owners don't want them. Putting them on the posts was the easiest solution and most economical solution. Unfortunately, the work has been completed now and it would become an additional cost to relocate the control panel onto the house. R. Badlam explained that the pump location was moved based on location that Mr. Reil selected. He also explained that control panel has to be within 5-10' from the pump; it can't be located at a further distance away. D. Clark said that additional footages mean additional costs. Mr. Badlam also explained that ~60% of the pumps have been relocated based on customer requests and that the Town would now be offering a \$20/year credit to homeowners that agree to power the grinder pumps from their electrical service.

Question: What about fumes and venting?

Answer: Venting is included in the pump station. Odors shouldn't be an issue.

Question: What about power outages?

Answer: Portable backup power would be provided by the Town in an extended outage.

Question: Will old septic tanks be torn out?

Answer: Only if they are in the way. If they don't have to come out then they won't be decommissioned as part of the project.

Question: Bill Reil asked about the final connection to the grinder pump and when this would take place. When the water line was put in the seed put in was not grass seed. He would like to see good quality seed put in. Mr. Reil said that the grinder pump was located at 50' and then the was located closer to his home from the 50' mark that was originally set. His wife would also like flowers put back that were destroyed. Mr. Reil is concerned about changes being made when property owners aren't home because they do work.

Answer: Crew coming in Wednesday to start connecting 30 pumps that have been tested and are ready to connect. Some homes are still being tested. Once they are pressure tested and everything is approved, then those pumps will be connected also. R. Badlam explained that a good quality lawn seed was just approved and that is what will be used on the project. Mr. Badlam stated that he genuinely

cares about this project and was unaware that the marker for the grinder pump location was moved closer than 50'.

Question: Amos stated that the contractor has made a mess along Summit Ave. and a Black Cherry tree was cut down to provide access. He doesn't understand why the tree had to be cut.

Answer: Mr. Badlam stated that the front area is where the mainline is located and so the tree had to come down because the contractor had to blast right there for the mainline. Mr. Badlam assured Amos that the area will be cleaned up and seeded to Amos's satisfaction.

Question: How will coordination be done with homeowners for electrical service?

Answer: Contractor is going to have to be proactive in coordinating the electrical service connection. Homeowner coordination is critical and there are about 30% of the pumps that haven't been tied into the electrical service because the contractor hasn't been able to gain access to the homes. Electricians work 7-3 and the main contractors are working 7-5 typically but may be cutting back once mains are completed.

Question: Who is looking out for the homeowner?

Answer: D. Clark answered that we are all looking out for the homeowner. Mr. Badlam explained that many residences won't require additional access. He will get a list of properties for which access can't be made and he will provide the list to the Town to coordinate.

Question: Will the district be responsible to pay to connect homes that don't connect as part of the project?

Answer: No, it will be the homeowner's responsibility to pay for any cost to connect if the connection is not done as part of the project.

Question: Resident explained that curbing has been cracked and damaged in front of his house and wonders who will be responsible for replacing the curbing? Resident also asked about a Butternut tree that appears to be dying. There are 3 different drains coming out of the house and is concerned about them getting disturbed. Resident would like to know what is happening and when it is happening.

Answer: If the contractor broke the curbing then it is their responsibility to replace it. Mr. Badlam explained that there was no digging done near the Butternut tree. He also explained that the contractors will have to dig from the home to the pump and any lines should be marked so the contractor knows where the lines are.

Questions: Residents said that Post Office is the best place to post information. Could the Town post updates there about the status of the project and when connections would be made?

Answer: D. Clark said that a general description of the schedule could be provided in the Post Office. A notice could also be put in the Bargain Hunter to let others that weren't at the meeting know about the notices.

Mr. Badlam explained that there will be a list of the addresses and names of people that haven't been able to contact. This list could also be posted at the Post Office.

Supervisor Hooven then asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiations with contractors and personnel matters. A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 8:05 by Councilman Perrault and seconded by Councilwoman Lanphear. Ayes all; motion carried.

Executive session closed at 9:02pm on a motion by Supervisor Hooven and seconded by Councilman Trembley at 9:02pm.

There was action taken at this time in the Executive Session.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Councilwoman Zuhlsdorf and seconded by Councilman Perrault. Ayes all; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.