

**Town of Berlin Sewer Commission
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vt 05602
(802)223-4405, Option 7**

Commissioners

**Rob Allen / Jim Hartson / Henry LaGue Jr.
Dana Marineau / Norbert Rhinerson
Assistant Mary S Wissell**

**Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
Monday June 23, 2014**

**Present: Rob Allen, Chair; Henry LaGue, Dana Marineau,
Norb Rhinerson, Ron Mercier and Mary Wissell.**

Absent: Jim Hartson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Public Comment - none.

Selectboard – Fisher Road Sewer Line – On June 9th two members of the Selectboard attended the meeting to discuss a request from Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce (CVCO) to transfer and assign force main easement rights to the Town of Berlin. Town Administrator Jeff Schulz explained that this raised questions and concerns from the town attorney, the Selectboard and Sewer Commission. George Malek from the CVCO gave a brief history of the pump station installation and the installation of the 4 inch line on Fisher Road. He explained that the pump station has no flaws and no defects. Norb Rhinerson questioned the history of the wet well design being higher than the ground floor, in order to get more height in the basement area, the ground floor was lowered. The Sewer Commission did not take over the pump station because the Chamber would not take responsibility if the sewer backed up, CVCO would not agree to this thus the town did not take over the pump station. Discussion re the pumps not working and flow continuing the sewage would back up into the basement. The Commission paid for a pump and the 4 inch line. George Malek reminded everyone that CVCO was not asking the Commission to take over the pump station, but asking the town to take over the municipal sewer line on Fisher Road.

Henry LaGue stepped down from the Commission at this time.

The Commissioners question – if Berlin Sewer Commission took over the line would there be an additional cost? LaGue Inc installed the line on Fisher Road and have an Easement . LaGue Inc advised Northfield Savings Bank has been told they need to pay a fee to hook up to the sewer line.

The Chamber of Commerce paid for installation from LaGue Inc line back to the pump station. Involved parties are not in agreement that the Agreement between CVCOG and LaGue Inc can be reassigned to the town. Question – Who is going to clarify the issue. The Commission needs to know the number and what it would cost to resolve this issue.

Henry LaGue advised that it would cost \$ 8,000 for Northfield Savings Bank to hook up to the municipal sewer line that crosses LaGue Inc property on Fisher Road. The Agreement is that this price is limited to the building and 80 employees.

The Sewer Commission feels that before any funds are expended that it would be better to review the easements etc. They feel that the Selectboard needs to look into purchasing the land.

Conclusion - The Selectboard feels it is in the towns best interest to be proactive, they have authorized the town attorney to investigate this topic. Jeff Schulz advised the costs will come from town monies.

Henry LaGue stepped back in as Commissioner.

Maintenance -

Line Cleaning - Ron Mercier advised that Hartigan has almost completed the annual line cleaning. They will return September 25th and 26th to finish up and clean the two remaining pump stations.

Manholes - Ron Mercier has worked with Ray Ostiguy and all the manholes on Highland Avenue have been upgraded. Vine Street manholes still need to be upgraded and it was discovered that one has water coming into it and needs to be repaired. Previous to the meeting Ron received approval from Dana Marineau to repair the manhole.

Shaw's Pump Station - C E Wendel Electric submitted a quote to repair the pressure treated pedestal at the pump station to uni-strut.

Sewer Commission Meeting
Page 3
June 23, 2014

Two options were quoted, one using galvanized uni-struts (\$2,964.00) and one using stainless steel uni-struts (\$ 3,644.00). Dana Marineau made a motion to approve Option #2 – 2 new sonar tubes, stainless steel uni-strut and associated wiring - \$ 3,644.00. Henry LaGue 2nd the motion. Vote - All in favor.

Maintenance Contract - Changes have been made to the Maintenance Plus TLC contract renewal as discussed at previous meetings. Henry LaGue made a motion to renew the contract for three years. Norb Rhinerson 2nd the motion. Vote - All in favor.

Montpelier Public Works – River Street Repairs. The 20 year bond payment schedule was reviewed. The Town of Berlin, Sewer Commission share for the project cost of \$ 753,397 is 47.8% or \$ 360,124 and 47.8% of the 4.005% bond interest charges. Mary Wissell is to check with Montpelier Public Works to see if the Bond Bank Ordinance allows prepayment on the principal. Also, Mary is to ask the Treasurer to review Berlin's options to prepay the principal and seek her advise.

Budget - FY 2014-2015 - Norb Rhinerson made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Budget for the billing amount of \$532,056.00. Henry LaGue 2nd the motion. Vote – All in favor.

Minutes - Dana Marineau made a motion to approve the minutes for June 9, 2014 Meeting as written. Norb Rhinerson 2nd the motion. Vote – All in favor.

Warrants -

Norb Rhinerson made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant Report #23 dated June 23, 2014, checks 2560 thru 2565 in the amount of \$ 44,942.49. Dana Marineau 2nd the motion. Vote – All in favor.

Round Table - Dana Marineau reported he met with a representative of F E Hart Fence Company to discuss and approve the fence repairs at the Partridge Farms Pump Station.

Adjourned - Meeting adjourned at 8:50. Motion made by Dana Marineau, 2nd by Henry LaGue. Vote - All in favor.

Mary S Wissell, Assistant to the Sewer Commission
Date Approved: