

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

**Commissioners
Rob Allen / Henry LaGue Jr. /
Wayne Lamberton / Dana Marineau
Assistant - Mary S Wissell**

**Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes
Monday April 13, 2015**

**Present: Rob Allen, Chair; Henry LaGue, Wayne Lamberton and Mary Wissell.
Absent: Dana Marineau**

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

Public Comment - none.

Office Administrator Dana Hadley – The Berlin Town Office has received an inquiry re any plans to extend sewer service to Richardson Road since the public water line will be servicing this area. The Commission advised that presently there are no plans, there is a large dip in the road that would require pumping and there is no service in this area. Policy re expanding service was discussed. The Commissioners advised most of Berlin's sewer lines have been installed by developers, if no developers are involved, the cost mainly falls on the landowners.

Dana reported he advertised for the open vacancy on the Sewer Commission and has received no inquiries.

Dana reported the Water Project will begin Monday April 20th. The Selectboard has to decide how the system will be run. The contract calls for service to start December 1st. Discussion re pros and cons of hiring an employee to run the system rather than a service that is licensed, insured, available 24 hours to provide service. It was suggested that the town road crew be responsible for checking leaks and knowledge of locations of shut off valves etc as they are already patrolling these areas. Henry LaGue recommended that right hand valves be required throughout the system. The Commission was asked if they would be interested in joining Commissions, they are not interested. Henry LaGue and Wayne Lamberton advised they would not have a problem being involved providing a reliable professional company is hired to manage the system.

Montpelier Public Works - Correspondence from Montpelier Public Works dated March 23, 2015 was reviewed. Basically MPW's and the Sewer Commission disputes the cost being charged related to the force main and

revenue from septage and leachate as provided in the joint Agreement. The Commission discussed going to arbitration as provided in the Agreement; paying the disputed bills less the force main charge and the interest rate that has been charged to the outstanding invoices. If payment of back invoices is to be made, A letter should be sent that clarifies they would be paid under protest, they still disagree with some of the charges. Upon resolution of the disagreement they may request recovering any interest that was paid. At this time the Commission decided that legal council should be included. Attorney Halpert and Phelps Engineering will be invited to attend the April 27th Meeting of the Commission.

Minutes - Wayne Lamberton made a motion to approve the minutes for March 23, 2015 Meeting as written. Henry LaGue 2nd the motion. Vote – All in favor.

Maintenance – Generator at Shaw’s Pump Station reports from April 9, 2014 thru March 2015 were reviewed and indicated the generator had been operating properly until the March 2015 incident.

Financial – A monthly financial report was reviewed.

White - A sewer payment was received late because an original payment was returned from the U S Postal Service to the customer. A wrong zip code was used and the customer had to resend the payment, it was received late and interest and penalty was charged. A request to abate the interest and penalty charge was denied by the Commission.

Warrants - Henry LaGue made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant Report #19 dated April 13, 2015, checks #2664 – 2668 in the amount of \$3,075.98. Wayne Lamberton 2nd the motion. Vote – All in favor. Check # 2663 was voided.

How to Lower Your Sewer Bill - An updated document to be posted on the Town of Berlin’s Website was approved.

Round Table - None

Adjourned - Meeting adjourned at 8:00. Motion made by Henry LaGue, 2nd by Wayne Lamberton. Vote - All in favor.

Mary S Wissell
Assistant to the Sewer Commission

Date Approved: April 27, 2015

