



WATER RATE COMMITTEE

Rate Committee meeting Tuesday, *June 3rd, 2014* called to order by Robert Stevens at 7 PM.

Present: Wm. Foster, Merle Prentice, Robert Stevens, Chair; & James Tornatore.
Absent: Thomas Evans

Guests: Michael Reynolds, Village Deputy Mayor;
Mertie Pozzi, Village Clerk
John Frieman, Village resident
John Tomazin, Town resident; Village property owner

Motion to accept 5/6/14 minutes made by Wm. Foster; second by M. Prentice.
Carried.

Guest J. Tomazin had questions regarding 6/1/14 bill; bill was for his share of water since purchase of Village property. J. Tomazin was specific regarding 'debt service' charge, and water charges for zero water consumption.

R. Stevens explained that the debt charge is due to being contracted with USDA and 104% of what Village pays annually is divided by customers; customers are charged whether use water or not. R. Stevens also explained that J. Tomazin is not paying the debt twice in the same quarter, as the past resident did not pay debt in his prorated charges for his own usage.

J. Tomazin stated he wasn't there to argue, and understood the explanation.

J. Tornatore and R. Stevens attended meeting with Assemblyman Chris Friend to discuss ladder factory and sidewalk. The Assemblyman listened and stated he will study the paperwork, with no commitment, but a statement that (the Assemblyman) "will review and get back to you." Assemblyman Friend did keep the Moody report, as he has chemist background. The Assemblyman did make suggestions that the Village had considered, i.e. Industrial Development Agency (IDA). J. Tornatore stated that a controlled burn was turned down at the County level, and probably would have been turned down at the State level.

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Guest M. Pozzi was present to discuss internal controls, and segregation of duties with respect to collections, deposits, and reconciliations.

*Account Clerk collects monies at counter; monies noted in cash receipt book, or entered through water/solid waste daily collections. There is monthly excel sheet of water and garbage revenue and village taxes.

*Clerk does the daily deposit, and does the posting of daily revenue.

*Deputy Clerk does reconciliation at end of each month, and reconciles trail balance to bank statements. Also checks the cash receipts from receipt book.

* Cash receipts are numbered, as are solid waste (garbage) tags purchased.

- Vouchers are prepared by account clerk, with pre-check report signed by Mayor; vouchers go for Board approval by members signing off. Account Clerk prints more reports after vouchers approved, prints checks, and all go to Clerk for transfer and check signing. Deputy Clerk reconciles checks.

Per J. Tornatore, state law requires that audit occurs.

M. Pozzi stated CPA's are in office yearly.

Auditor Leslie Spurgin was asked by Clerk about the double signature as asked at last meeting. L. Spurgin stated "you have good control and segregation of duties."

M. Pozzi stated if error not caught on day, then caught at end of month. Also, the bank will call if amount is not usual.

R. Stevens stated "as long as auditor satisfied, then system ok as is" and stated as staff are bonded.

J. Tornatore stated "it is true that all are bonded"

Per Wm. Foster, four out of five leaks fixed and some hydrants have been checked. The leak on Smullen losing 40-60,000 gals daily due to main break.

Regarding landlord who wishes to install individual apartment meters, per Wm. Foster the landlord will be ready for approximately two meters next month.

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Wm. Foster stated in February each well was double pumping for about four months due to leaks. Will listen again after last leak fixed. New York Leak Detection (NYLD) was put off to later in year or next year if all goes well.

R. Stevens asked what sidewalk grant status was.

J. Tornatore stated a conference call occurred the past Wednesday with R. Stevens and Attorney Como in attendance. Attorney had questions as to whether the current easements are adequate; the answer was 'no' – if the grant is accepted, additional easements for Whig will be needed. Three sidewalk committee members did the "Whig walk", gathering linear footage. Info was sent to Attorney Como regarding number of easements. J. Tornatore stated letters of support were coming in. Compliments given to HUNT who did the estimates in early May, then because of changes due to DOT standards, did the work again. Footage and dollar amount at prevailing wage.

J. Tornatore reminded committee that any 20% owners pay is not a 'user fee', like the water/solid waste charges, but would be referred to as 'bill to owners.' If the grant is approved, over a five year period, the Village could collect from owners after Village pays costs first. J. Tornatore stated other programs, i.e. Bishop Sheen, file a lien on property.

R. Stevens stated that the owners need to realize the bonus of the 20%, versus 100%.

Motion by M. Prentice to adjourn; second by Wm. Foster. Adjourned 8:10 PM.

*Kathy McCall
Account Clerk Typist*

******* NEXT MEETING JULY1st *******