



WATER RATE COMMITTEE - MAY 5, 2015

Present: Wm. Foster, John Frieman, Robert Stevens, James Tornatore

Absent: Jeremy Frederici, Merle Prentice

Guests: Michael Reynolds, Dep. Mayor; Cliff Alexander, Trustee; Patricia Flint-Beck, Trustee; Frank Como, Village Attorney

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM by R. Stevens.

NO MEETING SINCE 1/6/15. Motion to approve 1/6/15 minutes made by Wm. Foster; second by J. Frieman. Carried.

Invitation to guests to join committee meeting due to subject matter of three Town residents on NV- Maine Rd and Village water.

FOR REVIEW: ACTIVE TOWN ACCOUNTS ON VILLAGE WATER (6)
Upper Whig St (2) Golden Lane (1) NV – Maine Rd (3)

Attorney Como handed out information sheets answering questions as to what options are for the three Town residents: form a district; seek town improvement; or terminate services i.e. supply their own water source with private wells, or terminate services if the Village terminates water supply. Attorney Como stated the Town residents are not part of the Village limits, and not the Village's legal responsibility. The reason to address this situation is due to a past situation with a Town resident -- property was taken by taxes and no judgements could be placed by Village against property to retrieve monies due Village from water usage provided – legal recourse was used in that case. Village has no authority to spend monies outside Village limits to improve the water system for the current three Town residents; also, there is no funding from the state or USDA so any monies would come from Village residents and that would not be appropriate.

J. Tornatore stated Supervisor Yetter aware of the situation. He then asked Wm. Foster to relay what his discussion was with Tioga County Department of Health.

Wm. Foster stated the TCDOH has taken samples of the *dug* well and put a rush on it, but no results received yet. The *dug* well is under the influence of the water table. TCDOH can give all easements to have drilled, not dug, wells.

R. Stevens asked if the Kane work was part of the problem. Wm. Foster stated not their work, but the engineer having new pipe on right side of road; Wm. Foster also noted the severe winter weather was part of issue as frost needed to be chipped away from pipe.

F. Como stated the Village does not have any liability at this point to continue water; R. Stevens asked if Village had a moral obligation.

J. Tornatore stated that Town residents knew someday, if there was a bad break, that the Village could not go outside of municipality; it has been seven years since the water project began, and there was a meeting four years ago with these three Town residents and they were told “you have to do something – the deadline is with you, not us (Village). “

Wm. Foster stated Village already had plans to be able to shut off in future, i.e. the meter put having valves to end water at end of line and to shut off last three. Cost of repairing pipe last year was \$5800; this year over \$10,000; TCDOH says enough justification for the Village to start process as it would be an undue amount for Village to pay to continue to fix piping.

F. Como stated his letters have been re-vamped to address the three Rock Street residents, but that the issues are identical to the Whig Street residents’ termination of service. The three residents can (1) dig own well; (2) tie into the Village with a contract wherein the contract would state that the residents pay; (3) establish a district (town); and (4) town-wide improvement. Handouts given to group explaining in detail, under law, Village and Town liability.

J. Tornatore informed group that in past practice, approaches to the Town Board have been turned down.

Wm. Foster reviewed that the service lines are 1 ½ “ going into ¾””; the main larger pipe of 6” or 8” inches stops at the hydrant; the main didn’t freeze as water was in the hydrant, but main could still freeze. There were some septic and wells that froze due to the harsh winter.

R. Stevens stated that even if the three residents contracted with the Village, permanent repair would not be easy or inexpensive. Wm. Foster concurred.

J. Tornatore reviewed for the group that Whig Street residents were referred to funding agencies, i.e. Cortland USDA, Tioga Opportunities, and Bishop Sheen as part of their informational meeting/letters.

P. Flint-Beck asked what is the cost of a well.

Wm. Foster stated Whig Street residents paid \$2,000 to \$3,000; there is hard rock for these three residents. The Tioga Co. Dept. of Health would give easements for less distance between well and septic. Healthy Neighborhood Project in DOH is to help residents initially with UV light, then residents pay for ongoing bulbs, that last approximately one year. Wm. Foster stated that DOH feels that this would not be necessary as septic properly installed and sealed.

Review of one Village resident who dug well approximately twelve years ago as Village did not have enough pressure to get water to residence so a well was allowed. The well is 96’ deep and cost approximately \$3500.

There is also well dug at old truck stop North of Village due to and old time agreement. The Village line stopped at hydrant just north of Village center; the main would need extending, but mutual agreement that owner would dig well.

J. Tornatore stated that there will be a meeting Friday, May 8th with Tioga Co. DOH and they will bring forward Attorney Como’s paperwork. The Village will then meet with the three residents with options; Tioga Co. DOH has agreed to be part of this resident meeting. Supervisor Yetter doesn’t feel he needs to be part of this resident meeting per J. Tornatore, but he and Tioga Co. DOH will be copied into the letter that will be sent to the three residents after Friday’s meeting.

R. Stevens reviewed that the Village is allowed to have five (5) customers (contiguous) outside of the Village in their own district. Village has six (6) Town customers -- the senior housing complex on Golden Lane, two Upper Whig, and the three Rock Street residents.

J. Frieman reviewed new information from water conference. New York State is a primacy state, wherein regulations have to be “as strong as, or stronger than Federal.” There are new requirements regarding THM and AH5. The Village has a one pipe system and there will be issues with water age due to water being stored in reservoir and not pumped down. The chlorine and the organics (living things) in water interact based upon how long water sits. Also the Village has a two chlorine system, wells #3 and #4, that should be made into one system, with water pumped to the back side of reservoir; the line from water system loops back to reservoir to circulate water. There is a need to be prepared, and HUNT needs to be approached for agreement.

J. Tornatore briefly talked about sidewalk project being “achievable”, even if one side of the street is minimal work. Monies would be available 4/1/16. Engineers feel they know the issues with the Right of Way (ROW); sixteen properties are involved.

J. Tornatore spoke briefly about the old ladder factory property. The Southern Tier Regional Board is submitting paperwork for funding request for demo of building along the lines of a brownfield, which the ladder factory property is not, but it is toxic and has limited use due to that. The funding deadline 6/16/15.

R. Stevens asked for motion to adjourn; J. Frieman motioned, with second from Wm. Foster. Carried.

Adjourned 8:32 PM.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015

Kathy McCall
Account Clerk Typist