



WATER RATE COMMITTEE

- JUNE 2, 2015

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

Absent: Jeremy Frederici

Guests: Michael Reynolds, Dep. Mayor; Douglas Card, Trustee; Frank Como, Village Attorney; Daniel Scherrer, Tioga Co. Health Dept.; Yvonne Rich, Town Resident Rock St; Ron Fogle, Town Resident Rock St; David Arnold & wife, Town Resident Rock St - all three Town residents on Village water system

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM by R. Stevens.

Discussion regarding history of water system on Rock Street. The Village of Newark Valley has no recourse to collect if these Town accounts are delinquent. The \$1.9 M loan is assessed to Village of Newark Valley owners only; water use for town residents are not charged debt service or capital charge as legally non-Village owners cannot be charged. In the last two years there have been problems with pipe freezing - 2013-14 \$6000 to correct but 2014-15 many more frozen throughout State with estimate of \$10 K; the Village has incurred a cost of \$16K in last two years to pay for repairs for these three Rock St owners. As long as no issues, could continue water supply as such but a proper way to collect needs to be considered. Upper Whig Street residents dug wells, except three; no frozen pipes on Upper Whig but legally not supposed to go outside the Village of Newark Valley limits for repairs.

D. Scherrer of Tioga Co. DOH stated water testing was done on R. Fogle's *dug* well – results were fair, and a good indicator that water is good. DOH variance can be granted as separated well & septic as much as possible, but little chance of contamination.

Options reviewed for the Town residents are (1) dig own well and therefore would be off Village water system; (2) contract with the Village wherein the Village would supply water and charge for repairs; (3) create a water district under Town law – Town decision; (4) create a water improvement area – Town decision.

R. Fogle thinks the move of the hydrant across the street is causing issues. J. Tornatore responded that in speaking with HUNT Engineering, and believes since February was the coldest February on record, that caused freezing.

J. Tornatore further discussed the alternatives available: (1) continue on water system; (2) dig own well; (3) form a water district. The Village is providing water at their discretion, with no written contract. The Town is not willing to make a district and contract with Village. Village residents cannot pay for work outside of the Village. Not fiscally responsible for the Village to continue as is. The main pipe is 6" for 70-90 feet; the main outside the Village is 1 1/4" – too small for the three Rock St. owners. Village main put in 5 – 5 1/2 feet down and did not freeze; froze after the main into the 1 1/4" to 1" at other end of driveway of one of the Rock St owners; service valve put in at no cost to Rock St owners. The 8" main frost line lower than ever seen before.

Per DOH representative, time line is 90 days to 6 months (January 1, 2016) to make a decision. DOH looks at septic tanks and proposed well site before issuing variance. UV system grants if needed based on water tests after well drilled.

Tioga Opportunities may be able to assist owner financially to dig well.

R. Fogle would prefer to take a chance to see if it happens again. J. Tornatore stated not possible due to breaks, contaminants and freezing possibilities.

Topic moved to review of hydrant log and those hydrants repaired/replaced over the past eight years. Reviewed Bridge St. hydrant history – owner bought pipe and hydrant and paid for installation. Discussion as to whether hydrant would be turned over to Village for maintenance -- it was recommended by the committee that the Village take over maintenance and due diligence on this hydrant. Golden Lane hydrants in poor condition; recommended that due diligence be exercised, as have easements from the water project. The Trout Ponds hydrant in gate is not for use as it comes from the well – “out of order” sign on it. There are two hydrants that do not work on Main St (A10, A 12) – parts are in for one, with awaiting missing parts for second one. There are four complete hydrants bought during the water project – but parts will not be taken off these new hydrants to repair old ones. The Whig St. hydrant at Village barn is set lower than the road. No stones or flowers around hydrants as this is a violation .

Discussion of Community Service done by volunteers – i.e. summer kids. Wm. Foster and D. Card working on this.

Discussion of Village trucks needing to last as no monies for upgrades; there will be a maintenance schedule kept.

Discussion of old ladder factory. Quote for asbestos removal is estimated at \$48-55 K. RFP to go out to bid for asbestos removal; RFP to go out to bid for demolition services.

Discussion of LED lighting wherein reduction of lightings costs could be 50%.

Motion of adjourn made by Prentice; second by Foster. Adjourned 9:06 PM.

Rachel Jacobs
Deputy Clerk/Treasuer
Code Enfocement Officer

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 7TH

