

**Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting
September 14, 2020**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

All in Attendance via Zoom.

In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Brian Coolidge, Tracy Wyman, Tim Guiles, Doug Bailey

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Brent Buehler, Bill Moore, Greg Smela, Lee Kahrs, Shari Vaccarella, Chris Brickell, Marielle Blais

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM by Seth Hopkins – Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adopt the agenda, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Add Item 2b – Consider Waiving Interest and Penalties on Sewer Charges

2. Consent Agenda

a) Minutes of Board of Sewer Commissioners of August 10, 2020

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 Sewer Commissioner’s Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b) Consider Waiving Interest and Penalties on Sewer Charges

Motion by Tim Guiles/Tracy Wyman to authorize waiving the penalties and interest during the declared state of emergency for sewer payments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Discussion on Second Water Meters

Dave Atherton stated now that there are joint water and sewer billings, there are some properties that have a second water meter for watering gardens and it was asked whether the Town wants to continue to allow people to install a second water meter. There would be a second meter fee associated with this addition.

Tim Guiles thought the theory of the sewer billing is a pay for usage and if people want a second water meter for water that is not going into the sewer, it would be a non-sewer issue and suggested it would be a fair policy to allow people to add a second meter. Tracy Wyman and Seth Hopkins agreed. Mr. Hopkins thought it should be the decision of the Fire District. and noted if there is water that is not going through the sewer, he does not think it is harming the Town. Mr. Atherton stated the question has come up a lot and he wanted clarification from the Board. Mr. Guiles suggested though they are not the Water Department, it would be for the public good and would be fair to provide the option of a second water meter and encouraged the Board to write a letter to the Prudential Board requesting the allowance of second meters for people who want to pay for a second meter as long as it is not going into the sewer. Mr. Hopkins noted people will make their own decisions but stated the Prudential Board can hear from the Sewer Commissioners that they do not object to it.

4. Consider American Legion Request

Dave Atherton provided information to the Sewer Commissioners concerning a request from the American Legion to allow a one to three-year reprieve on their water and sewer bill. Mr. Atherton reported Mr. Moore has reached out to the Legion to determine if they have applied for any of the COVID-19 related grants. There are grant opportunities for some businesses that they may be able to take advantage of. The Legion also owns the building where the gun shop is located, but this is for the Legion's building only. They are not currently in arrears on anything. Mr. Atherton stated they are looking for abatement into the future and he does not know how that would work, as abatements have always been on past bills through the Board of Civil Authority. Seth Hopkins noted he is a member of the Sons of the Legion and advised that this is probably not the right venue and is not appropriate for the Sewer Commissioners to be doing this. Mr. Hopkins suggested the Legion go through the State on this item. Mr. Hopkins stated the Legion does provide a lot of service to the Town, but as the Town Manager has pointed out, it is a very small amount of money. Mr. Hopkins did not think it will be a material difference to them and suggested the Board respectfully take no action on this item. Mr. Atherton and Mr. Moore will assist the Legion with what they may be eligible for through the State and also get Stephane Jerome involved.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Board of Sewer Commissioners' meeting at 7:51PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary