

TOWN OF LEBANON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Remote Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:00 pm

Members Present: Gregg Lafontaine, David Hartley, Harry Anderson, Tony Tyler

Others Present: Joyce Clark (Amston Lake homeowner), Jeff Arpin (Amston Lake homeowner), Jason Nowosad (Field Agent), Cathe McCall (WPCA Administrator)

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gregg Lafontaine at 7:00 pm.

B. Public Comment - Limit 2 minutes per speaker

- a. Joyce Clark – 6 Deepwood Dr. would like to extend a huge thanks to Jason Nowosad for his efforts during storm. She noted that he is always pleasant and willing to explain technical issues, etc. His efforts are very appreciated. She also indicated that he went out of his way to assist an elderly homeowner.
- b. Jeff Arpin expressed his concerned about two addresses that may not be connected had not been sent orders to connect. The Board answered his questions.

C. Minutes

- a. Approval of minutes from July 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion made (Tony Tyler / Harry Anderson) to approve the minutes of the July 23 Regular Meeting. The motion passed with none opposed.

D. Correspondence

E. Old Business

- a. Update on mandatory connections
A letter was sent to owners of unconnected properties explaining the extended connection deadlines. Jason Nowosad signed off on an installation at 129 Ryan Terrace and two other permits have been pulled.
- b. Vacuum release valve flushing
Jason Nowosad supplied projected Annual Maintenance costs for year one and two.
 - i. Monthly meter trap flushing costs were outlined
 - ii. There will be the cost of a meter technician to do diagnostics on the meter at least once per year

- iii. There should be yearly maintenance of the Air Vacuum Release Valves – Cost involves maintenance of installed units and the purchase of two new ones per year.
- iv. Branch line flushing – Year one will require a flushing of all lines. Year two may cost less as not all lines will need to be done.
- v. All valves should be flushed to ensure access going forward. Each house has a shutoff valve for the system. Many are difficult to find because they are covered by debris. They should all be identified, cleaned, flushed and some repaired.
- vi. Nowosad expects to have at least one major problem in the system per year and has budgeted for this. It could be a branch line, something found during a valve inspection, etc.
- vii. Grinder pump and chamber maintenance – there have been random issues with these so Nowosad included some dollars toward that.

Since the time the estimate were made Mr. Nowosad has spoken to a representative from F. R. Mahoney who suggested we may start to see more pumps failing due to age. Based on that, some of these estimates may be low.

Mr. Nowosad believes we need to determine what the criteria is to decide between repair and replacement of a pump. He explained that these pumps are aging and are at least halfway through their life expectancy. The F.R. Mahoney representative indicated that most towns have a \$1,000.00 threshold on this.

Motion made (Harry Anderson / Tony Tyler) to have a \$1000.00 threshold on repair vs replacement on a pump. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Meter
 - i. The meter has shown errors but does not remain in that state, and continues to collect data. Two errors were seen over a six-week period. During that same six weeks Mr. Nowosad took flow readings which he outlined to the Board. He will continue to monitor the flow and provide reporting going forward.
 - ii. Remote Meter Monitoring – This would help indicate if there was a long-term error so that it could be taken care of in a timely manner. Tony Tyler and Jason Nowosad both spoke with representatives from the town to learn the cost of internet service for this. It would be \$120 per month. Nowosad also spoke with a monitor technician who indicated that the cost of that apparatus is not very high. He learned that the meter could be checked remotely, but it would not alert if there was an issue. Lafontaine asked Mr. Nowosad and Tony Tyler to find out the actual cost of the monitor. There was also discussion on remote monitoring of Bioxide levels. Nowosad will reach out to Evoqua to inquire further on

this. He feels it would be good to have Evoqua attend a Board meeting to make a presentation on this capability.

d. Meeting with Hebron – A joint meeting is scheduled for September.

F. Field Agent's Report

a. R. Mahoney service call(s)

1. There have been a fair number of service calls. They have contacted him when they receive a call which has turned out well as a couple of them Nowosad was able to fix without FR Mahoney having to come out.
2. Service calls are not being charged the flat rate they once were, but this has worked out well as the cost per call has lowered.
3. Gregg Lafontaine brought up the fact that one of the service calls was caused by something the homeowner had done. He would like to know if charges should be passed on to them in this case. Mr. Hartley explained that the policy was for WPCA to pay for the first call, and any subsequent charges would be billed to the homeowner. Mr. Anderson brought up the problem of roots getting into the system and how that should be charged. It is believed that we are responsible for the system from the pump to the street, but that the homeowner is responsible from the pump to the house.

b. Other service issues / incident reports

1. The storm caused several issues Mr. Nowosad responded to. Thursday and Friday of that week were 16-hour days, and Saturday required work also. He had to do pumping, took care of various alarms, etc. In some cases there were overflows caused by tripped breakers due to the power outage. Mr. Nowosad believes it would be good to remind people what is expected during an outage such as this and what their responsibilities are. McCall will look for previous documentation that was written on this subject.

G. Financials

a. Invoices received

- i. Hebron Invoice – Mr. Lafontaine stated that he does not believe we should pay the maintenance cost at this time. This Board has a meeting scheduled with Hebron WPCA on September 9th to discuss this further. Currently, he suggests we pay them \$3,000.

Motion made (Tony Tyler / Harry Anderson) to pay 3,000.00 toward the Hebron invoice. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. There are two outstanding Evoqua invoices at this time.

Motion made (Tony Tyler / Harry Anderson) to pay the \$3167.26 total of the two Evoqua invoices. Motion passed unanimously

- b. Fiscal year 2019/2020 financial summary, discuss 2020/2021 budget
Gregg Lafontaine presented the actuals vs budget for last year and a proposed budget for the coming year. The proposed includes the maintenance costs predicted by Mr. Nowosad that were reviewed earlier. There were no questions on the actuals for last year and the proposed budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

H. New Business

- a. Nothing to discuss

I. Topics for Next Agenda

- a. Review the proposed budget
- b. Cost of meter monitor
- c. Possible presentation from Evoqua on Bioxide monitoring
- d. Summary of meeting with Hebron WPCA

J. Adjournment

Motion made (Tyler / Hartley) to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine McCall
Water Pollution Control Authority Administrator
Town of Lebanon