

Algoma Sanitary District #1
Minutes – April 19, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.

Commission President Earl Lawrence with Commissioner Michael Gelhar present called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Alexander Irvine was excused. Also present was Kevin Mraz, Joel Edson, Rose Mraz, and James Barthels. Ray Edelstein was excused.

Call to order.

- a) Earl noted that the District is using a tape recorder for the purpose of the minutes. No one else is using a tape recorder.
- b) New Commission organization.
 - i) Alexander Irvine was elected as Commissioner and has been with the District over 17 years. He was sworn in at the annual meeting for the Town as a current Commissioner of the Sanitary District.
 - (1) **Mike recommended that Earl Lawrence be put forth as President of the Commission. Roll call to elect Earl as President – Mike-yes/Earl-yes/carried 2 yes.**
 - (2) Appoint positions for Secretary and Treasurer. Joel said he would be willing to continue on as Treasurer and Alex told Rose he would continue on as Secretary if that is the wishes of the Commission. **Mike made a motion to appoint Alex as Secretary and Joel as Treasurer-second-Earl/carried unanimously.**
 - c) **Mike made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting for March as presented second-Earl/carried unanimously.**
 - d) **Mike made a motion to approve the cash receipts & investments for Sanitary & Water for March/second-Earl/carried unanimously.**
 - e) **Mike made a motion to approve the pending bills for April as presented/second-Alex/carried unanimously.**
- 2) Director's Report
 - a) Kevin said the meters from well #1 were calibrated and went from 25 gallon per minute difference to within 9 gallons per minute difference. The District uses the well #1 raw water flow to record how many gallons go in the system and this will help with unaccounted water.
 - b) The District is working on a GIS program to have various information, such as information regarding hydrants, water main sizing, water valves, and sanitary lateral information on a map. The operators will be able to use lap top computers to identify information in the field. An example would be a water leak; operators would be able to identify which valves need to be turned off.
 - (1) This will be a nice benefit to the District to reduce response times.
 - c) The Commissioners moved to new business for 104 Wyldeberry at this point
 - d) Review of District Stats
 - i) The Commissioners looked over the charts given out to decide what they would like.
 - (1) Earl appreciates having the charts.
 - (a) Earl said he would like to have operating income cover operating expenses and Mike agreed. Earl would like to have non operating income cover buildings and grounds.
 - (2) The charts will be gone over in more detail at the next meeting.
- 3) **New Business:**
 - a) 104 Wyldeberry
 - b) James Barthels introduced himself and explained why he is attending the meeting
 - i) He said he built a house and took ownership around January of 2005. During mid summer of 2006, Mr. Barthels's son noticed that the lawn mower tires were sinking into the grass. Dan Benson came out and shut off the water and this showed the leak was on the homeowner's side.
 - (1) Dan turned the water back on so there would be water service to the home until the leak was fixed.
 - ii) Bill Schlichting was his builder and advised him to call the original plumber, O'Neil and the excavator Kip Jacobson. The situation ended up with a dispute over when and why this leak happened.
 - (1) Mr. Barthels said he was obtaining conflicting stories and letters.
 - (a) He went through the Winnebago Home Builder Association to try solving this with their arbitrators. He received letters from them that were sent by Schlichting, O'Neil, and Jacobson. These letters stated they talked to the District and were hearing the opposite of what he was hearing so it was confusing.
 - (b) Mr. Barthels came in and Kevin told him a meeting with the Commissioners would be the best way to resolve this. The District has the failed pipe in the office.

- (2) Mr. Barthels is requesting the District to put in writing what their opinion is of what went wrong. Whether it's installation or a long term process which would also be a factor.
- (a) Earl said he has no issue with providing information. Legal Council isn't here, but Earl said he would say the District can give facts but not opinions. Earl said the District has no authority to say why something happened with the pipe as we are not a metallurgist.
 - (b) The District can say we have the pipe and that there is a hole in it, we cannot say why, but we can write this up. The District cannot tell by looking at the pipe why it has a hole in it.
 - (i) Mr. Barthels said he is disappointed with this response and said he is here 9 months later because of comments from the District.
 - (ii) Mr. Barthels said Jacobson, the excavator, was a member of the Winnebago housing authority when the process started and when his membership came due, and since this was in arbitration, he decided not to renew his membership which put another hitch into getting this resolved.
 - (iii) Mr. Barthels said he now needs to solve this in a different way.
 - (c) Mr. Barthels said the leak was not found until after the warranty, but it was leaking for a long time. He said the neighbors' ditches were wet for months, and once this leak was fixed, their ditches dried up. Mr. Barthels has pictures of this.
 - (d) Mr. Barthels said he waited 9 months for Mr. Jacobson to come back to fill the hole and level it out with fresh dirt. When he originally did the job, Kip took the sod and black dirt with him so the repair that was done cost about \$200.00 extra for the dirt and hauling. It was \$350.00 to do the original job.
 - (e) Earl and Mike requested staff to send a letter stating the District's observations. Earl said the District will not go any further than this unless legal says it's ok.
 - (i) Kevin said the District is on site to be sure the District's side of the valve is not damaged or in this case, when it tipped, the District required a repeat pressure test and repair of the damage.
 - (ii) To try to reiterate, Kevin said, the only statement that Mr. Barthels could have taken different ways was whether the excavator bumped the valve or if dirt caved in on the valve. Mr. Barthels said that this is his 2nd question.
 - a. Kevin said that he stayed with the facts through this and doesn't know what stories they may be telling him.
 - 2. This led to Mr. Barthels' 3rd question – The person actually doing the digging came in to use the bathroom and told his wife that this will take longer because he hit the pipe. Now they are saying it was the dirt. This was a 3 hour estimate and he was charged for 8 hours. Mr. Barthels said he should not pay the extra 5 hours for worker error. He would like to know what Dan saw or didn't see.
 - 3. Mr. Barthels asked if there was anything else the District can do.
 - a. The District told him there are copper corrosion specialists out there which may be able to determine what happened to the pipe.
 - (iii) Kevin will have Ray look the letter over and will have it to Mr. Barthels by the end of the month.
- 4) Note: The meeting was interrupted by the need to take the office manager to the hospital at 6:58 p.m.
- a) The Commissioners by passed the rest of the staff report, Earl said the correspondence was taken care of, the minimum business was covered, no other public was here, no report from water committee.
- 5) **Mike made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 second-Earl/carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mraz, Office Manager

Approved:

Alexander Irvine, Secretary