

VASSALBORO SANITARY DISTRICT
PO BOX 183
NORTH VASSALBORO, MAINE
(207) 872-7263
vsanidist@vassalboro.com
www.vsdistrict.com

Monthly Meeting
February 15, 2024

1. Paid invoices to be approved by the Board of Trustees and signed.
Board approved and signed.
2. Pay Req 42 to be signed by Richard Green and Ray Breton for work on Rag Study at NMPS.
3. Update on A/R: Outstanding A/R as of 2/8/2024 is \$44,980.48, which includes the liens below.

<u>Lien</u>	<u>Outstanding Liens</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Quarter 2, 2022	2	\$ 1,062.75	5/15/2024
Quarter 3, 2022	4	\$ 2,742.12	8/9/2024
Quarter 4, 2022	5	\$ 2,384.16	11/2/2024
Quarter 1, 2023	7	\$ 2,655.51	2/8/2025
Quarter 2, 2023	10	\$ 4,513.58	5/15/2025
Quarter 3, 2023	<u>26</u>	\$ 12,115.70	8/5/2025
	54	\$ 25,473.82	

4. Letter to Town of Vassalboro given to all board members requesting \$200,000 of TIF funding to help with debt service. The town has sent questions which need answers.

Questions from town select board were complete and given to Aaron to forward.

5. USPS mail change - the lease agreement for the postage machine is \$222.00 per quarter. The new procedure for Certified Mail, which is electronically, the lease agreement is \$200.19 per quarter. The Certified Mail lease agreement will give us savings of \$1.33 per letter for any Certified Mail done – currently costing \$8.69 per letter.

On hold until I can get more information regarding this. Check with PO before going with the lease agreement.

6. Vendor 2024 quote for snowplowing and mowing all pump stations and properties owned by VSD. Richard recommends renewing the contract for 2024, with the understanding this will be going out to bid. Suggestion to put out to bid.

Customers suggested checking into farming out the office.

7. New Board Member request from Lisa Miller. Lee mentioned this should have been a discussion before speaking about this. We have been looking for a few years for a new board member. Craig Flood is a public notary who can sign the liens for us.

Are you a notary – Not a requirement: No

Becky made the motion to have Lisa Miller join the Board of Trustees.

Lee seconds the motion.

All in favor: Ray Breton, Alfred Roy, Lee Trahan, Becky Goodrich

Customer asked if anyone who has served on a board for the Town has ever considered serving on the district's board.

8. Customers want Becky stepping down. The Charter states one cannot serve on the board of trustees and be an employee of the business. Need a vote to keep at the current positions.

Lee voted for Becky to stay on the Board temporarily until a replacement is found.

Ray seconded.

All in favor: yes

Richard to update:

1. Richard to update NMPS installation of new pumps.

Hoyle & Tanner sent plans to ME DOT for their approval. The way the plan was set up, there may not be enough funds available in the loan to pay for the entire project due to the need to add a bigger generator. This has been set up so this can be removed from the contract. We are just waiting for DEPs approval to put out to bid. Installing just the new pumps but not the grinder. The existing generator will not run the new pumps and grinder. Ray explained the issues with the NMPS continuously plugging. CMD has been responding to these situations when called.

2. Items pending for Richard:

A. Update on Priest Hill Road new construction needing to connect to the sewer.

Richard received call 1/9/2023 stating Casella has connected customer to sewer.

Richard went to inspect. Needs to sign off on permit. The town garage called Ray informing us they tore up the road and installed the pipe into the sewer system.

Ray informed the town garage Richard went over to make sure the install was done correctly and to document the new pipeline. The town was not notified. Ray did not receive any calls from Dig Safe. Not sure what the contractor's procedure was. Richard believes the contractor did not contact the town but did contact VSD. The town is looking into this due to perhaps no permits were given to open the road.

B. Need to get the water flow meters calibrated for SMPS, EVPS, and spare at VSD office. Contact RITEC Environmental. Richard to put on the list again.

Open the public hearing.

Call the meeting to order:

Call attendance: Ray Breton, Alfred Roy, Becky Goodrich, Richard Green

Public Hearing:

1. Question was asked if we received the \$200,000 in debt service, how would this help the customers find relief. The invoice prices will not increase. Richard explained he believes the TIF

money could only be used for debt service. There are two loan payments, one current and one coming up, which has a balance of approximately \$120,000 per year. Customer asked Aaron Miller when a decision would be made on the TIF funds. Aaron stated they are meeting next week with the attorney. The town has asked VSD a number of questions that have been addressed to the attorney. Aaron has asked their attorney to contact our attorney to get on the same page with the number of questions we have. Question was asked what happens if a default occurs. This process started 3 weeks ago asking the town's attorney to reach out to our attorney. The customers want to make sure TIF funds will not necessarily be used for other town projects. Aaron stated the town needs to make sure everything is going correctly. The town is waiting on legal.

Customer question regarding the next billing – going to prorate 2023 from 2024? Becky informed them the April billing will remain at the old prices, depending on what the TIF comes back as. There may be a 5% increase, Becky doesn't know for sure. Customer is asking if bill already paid at the new price and the January bill is rebilled at the old prices, where is the difference going. Becky explained the credit is still on their account and will be applied to the April billing.

Why is the finance charge vote from 4% APR to 8.5% effective with the April 2024 billing. The town doesn't charge 8.5%. The board voted to keep the finance charge stays 4%.

2. Vote for possible price increase of 5%(??) in April 2024 billing, depending on what the town Select Board are willing to give for debt relief. Becky stated she wasn't really sure what was happening.

Becky stated if the sewer district comes to the point of filing bankruptcy, there are two different chapters we are eligible for and the sewer district continues to operate as normal. Customer asked how the loan was underwritten, which we did not know. The question was asked why can't this be put on the whole town of Vassalboro. Becky explained this has to go to a town vote. No increase for the April 2024 billing. Selectman have an executive session for February 22nd regarding the TIF.

Close the public hearing.