

February 7th, 2014

Regular Meeting

Petersburgh Town Board

Present: Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst, Councilman Jack Barnhill, Councilman Neil Geary, Deputy Town Clerk Brigitta Schmidt

Absent: Councilwoman Denise Church, Councilman Alan Webster

Water District Committee: Joseph Dunlop, Tammy Dunlop, William Shorter Sr., Cynthia Petersen, Alex Brooks

Guests: Steve Bowman, Gene Kluck

Call to order: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Krahforst called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

- **Water Meters:** Water District Superintendent Ben Krahforst referred to the January Water District Report to the Town Board, which included information pertaining to repairs needed for wells and water meters meters. The meters currently in use are as originally installed when the system was implemented in 1986. Superintendent Krahforst informed the Board and Committee that he had consulted Badger Water, and the approximate “life span” of a water meter is usually 10-15 years. In addition to past issues with unclear water, the meters in the Petersburgh system are long overdue of replacement. Incorrect readings are resulting in estimated usages for water billing, and the supply of meters on hand is not enough to replace those in need. Badger Water had also recommended simultaneous replacement of both inside and outside meters; however, well repairs may need to take priority in order to stay within budget.
- **Well Repairs:** Last year Wells 5 and 6 were diagnosed and estimated obtained for needed repairs. Currently, Well 2 is now supplying most of the water for the system, although Well 6 has larger pumping capabilities. Well 5 is documented as having an obstruction at 222 feet, and also was discovered to be missing a screen. Presently the system does not have a back-up, and Superintendent Krahforst indicated the necessity of ensuring an alternate water source is made available. It was decided to consult the original specifications of Well 5, drilled by Clark Engineering, to determine whether or not a contract was made for these installations. Options for additional well repairs will be researched as well.
- **Circulator Pump:** Superintendent Krahforst stated that the system’s circulator pump is not consistent, as a wire had been spliced to bypass the control rather than purchasing the correct parts. This was done to cause circumventing relay to accommodate pumping to the top, but this is another issue that should be properly repaired.
- **Budget Discussion:** as the Water District has finally been able to retain a balance, the costs for various repairs needed were deliberated in order to aptly allocate the available funds.

- **Budgeted Discussion, continued:** the replacement of water meters will cost approximately \$175 each to install, if using the meters within the storage. The Water District has around 30 meters to use, and there are a total of 74 connections. Superintendent Krahforst also informed the Board that certain properties should have a pressure reducer installed, prompting a discussion on whether or not this is the Town's responsibility or Patron's. This was thought to be included in the original bylaws, which will be reviewed to hopefully provide clarification on the matter. Superintendent Krahforst reiterated that the well repairs should take priority, and other improvements may be accomplished over several years.
- **Labor Arrangements:** Supervisor Krahforst stated that as the Water District Superintendent Job Description as adopted by the Town Board does not encompass the labor cost involved with additional work, an hourly rate would need to be established for major repairs such as meter replacing. Previously the District has hired outside contractors for repairs despite the high costs in doing so, but new arrangements with the Town Highway Department have been effective in saving substantial amounts of funding. The Board and Committee agreed that it may be more cost-effective and simpler to allow for the Superintendent to perform the work. Currently about 20 Patrons have meters in need of immediate replacement, which will take from 2-4 hours per meter to repair. An hourly rate of \$30.00 was decided; however, an advertisement will be placed to allow an opportunity for interested and skilled individuals to apply as well. No action was taken on the matter; Supervisor Krahforst recused himself to avoid confliction with the Town's Code of Ethics (familial relations), and only two voting members did not reach a quorum.
- **Committee Discussion:** Member Joseph Dunlop suggested pursuing applicable grants for system improvements, as the Committee may be of assistance in such processes, Supervisor Krahforst agreed that it was a worthwhile option to explore, and funds could be accordingly applied toward reimbursement for time and efforts involved in doing so. It was also decided to proceed with the initial meter replacements, as revenues received will be incorrect until the meter readings are corrected.
- **Executive Session:** Superintendent Krahforst asked to address an issue with one Patron in particular, but to protect this person's confidentiality the matter was to be discussed in closed session.

RESOLUTION #13. MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board move into Executive Session at 1:18 PM to discuss an issue present within the Water District specifically relating to one Patron to remain confidential. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Absent
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Absent

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #14. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilman Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board move into Executive Session at 1:29 PM to discuss an issue present within the Water District specifically relating to one Patron to remain confidential. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Absent
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Absent

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Adjourn: With no further business, on motion of Councilman Geary, seconded by Councilman Barnhill, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk