

**SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
RICHFORD, VERMONT**

May 29, 2014

Chair Linda Collins called the special meeting to order at 3:15 PM with members Tim Green, Wayne Hurtubise (3:22), Chris Martel and Norris Tillotson present. Also present were Laura Ovitt, Alan Fletcher, and Mark Simon of Simon Operation Services.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operation of the water and sewer departments.

Alan Fletcher stated the Town has 550 water meters, 104 of which had no usage reading for the past six months. There are 40 – 45 vacant properties. There is about \$60,000 outstanding in delinquent water bills. In some cases, shutting off the water is not an option because the shut-offs either do not work or cannot be located.

Laura reported she has drawings of the where water shut offs are located that were done in the 1950's and identifies properties by the owner at that time. She will arrange to meet with someone who can tell her the location of the properties.

Mark Simon suggested, in cases of meters not reading usage, billing on the basis of historic usage. The ordinance can be amended to allow such billing. Alan Fletcher stated if the amendment is made, it should only be a stop-gap measure because the meters need to be readable. Mark further suggested monthly meetings to prioritize needs. The board agreed the meeting should be held during the last week of each month.

Mark Simon listed upcoming projects as follows:

- Cleaning at the intake to reduce turbidity

- Last load of sand for filter #3 due tomorrow. The filter will be operational in 3-4 weeks.

- Sludge removal at the sewer plant – will require about 4 hours every other day for 1-2 months.

- Drummac will draw the sludge, and the Troy-Jay board has approved receiving the sludge.

- The condition of the valves and manholes will be checked prior to the 105 paving; repairs will be made as necessary.

Alan Fletcher will rework the letter that is sent to property owners when meter repair is needed.

Mark Simon said the recently purchased pressure washer is not needed. It is too big. He suggested trying other methods.

The board discussed an invoice from SOS from Nov. 2013 in the amount of \$3450. The board agreed to pay the bill. Mark Simon will provide a 'no-charge' invoice for extra work for the past two weeks for the sand replacement.

Mark Simon left the meeting at 4:37 PM.

The selectboard reviewed a list of paving projects that John Nutting has asked to have prioritized. The board will review the list again at their next regular meeting.

The board discussed damage done to the South Richford Road by a logger driving his skidder on the pavement. Laura was directed to contact the town's attorney. Laura was also directed to contact Jim Cota to request an independent appraisal of the damage.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Laura Ovitt
Administrative Assistant