

Town of Hillsborough Water & Sewer Commission
July 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Peter Mellen, Chris Sieg and Dave Lewis; and, Penny Griffin, Administrator.

Also in attendance was Steve Miller of 226 West Main Street for a hearing to appeal the Commissioners decision to deny their request for a waiver of the second sewer unit being charged to the property.

The Commissioners opened the hearing and allowed Mr. Miller to appeal to the board. Steve Miller stated that he was recording the hearing. Penny Griffin, Administrator, downloaded a recording application and began recording the hearing as well.

Steve Miller stated that he is looking for a “common sense” exemption as there is no use at all from any patrons as there are no facilities or plumbing for facilities in the commercial side of the business. Commissioner Peter Mellen asked if the hot tub/spa that has been approved by the Town of Hillsborough Planning Board is connected to the sewer in any way. Steve Miller replied that the hot tub/spa is not connected and at this time it is not being used as part of the business due to the fact that they need to provide bathroom facilities before allowing patrons to utilize it.

Commissioner Peter Mellen explained to Steve Miller that in reviewing the sewer ordinance regarding his request it was observed that there is no mechanism in the current ordinance granting the Commissioners the powers to issue waivers/exemptions; that is why the request has been denied. The Commission went on to explain that the review revealed that a number of regulations were inadvertently omitted when the complete sewer ordinance was revised in 2012. The Commissioners advised Mr. Miller that they are currently working on updating the ordinance with the missing regulations, however it will take some time, they will need to be reviewed by their attorney and a hearing will need to be held.

Steve Miller asked that if the regulation is in the ordinance, would the Commission grant his waiver. The Commissioners stated that certain assurances would need to be made and agreed to by both parties, such as any changes to the commercial business would need to be reported and approved prior to changes being made. Also, these assurances would extend to any future owners should they sell the property. Steve Miller stated he would be willing to work out any assurances needed by the Commission.

It was agreed by both parties that the Commission will issue their decision on the appeal within 30 days in accordance with Town Code section § 181-78.

The Commissioners will proceed with updating their regulations within 60 days. They also agreed to forward Steve Miller a copy of the revisions to keep him in the loop.

7:10 pm the appeals hearing for 226 West Main Street concluded and Steve Miller left the meeting.

The group discussed the proposal from AAA Pump to upgrade the Bear Hill pump station with new pumps and related wiring and to bring the controls of the pump station above ground to eliminate the

need to continually go into a confined space. Commissioner Chris Sieg reported that he has spoken with a representative from AAA Pump and was not entirely satisfied with the answers he was given to some of his questions. The group discussed the next steps and decided that they would like to move forward with installing the pump already on hand and then revisit the topic of the upgrade proposal. Commissioner Chris Sieg will contact Paul Dutton to discuss installing the existing pump.

The Commissioners reviewed and authorized the following:

- 2022 AP Vouchers #14 W = \$10,355.42 S = \$23,365.31
- 7/14/2022 Meeting Minutes
- Timecards
- Underwood Engineers ESR 38 – Water Asset Management Program

The revised draft “Will Serve” letter for 219 West Main Street was reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Peter Mellen will incorporate clarification details and resubmit for another review.

Commissioner Chris Sieg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dave Lewis seconded the motion.

All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Griffin, Administrator

Water and Sewer Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Approved by:

Date:

Peter Mellen, Chairman

Chris Sieg

Dave Lewis
Water and Sewer Commissioners