Burrillville Sewer Commission

Regular Meeting of October 8, 2019

Board Room of the BWWTF

Members Present: William Andrews – Chairman

Richard Nolan – Vice Chairman

Gary Rouleau – Commission Member

Daniel Joubert – Commission Member

Member(s) Absent: Russell Fontaine – Secretary

Also Present: Timothy Kane – Attorney for the Commission

James Dyment – Consulting Engineer

Michael Emond – Superintendent

Jacqueline Batalon – Financial Aide

Mr. Andrews opened the Meeting at 6:32 PM.

**Agenda Item –** The question of accepting the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2019 and the question of dispensing with the reading of said Minutes.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2019 and to dispense with the reading of said Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Public Comment –** None

**New Business:** Update from CJ Strain, Nexom, on testing of the Phosphorus/Copper removal system.

Mr. Andrews stated that the update will be discussed during Executive Session.

**Old Business:** To consider and act upon the approval of fees and the Daniele Wastewater Permit for Daniele Drive and Davis Drive.

Mr. Andrews stated that Mr. Geremia recommended issuing a one year permit for Daniele.

**Voted –** Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve and sign the permit agreement with Daniele valid for one year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Correspondence –** None

**Invoices:**

James J. Geremia & Assoc., Inc. Invoice #38 in the amount of $975.00 for Professional Services rendered in connection with Phosphorus/Copper Upgrades – Construction – Fund 8300.

**Voted –** Mr. Rouleau made a motion to approve and pay James J. Geremia & Assoc., Inc. Invoice #38 in the amount of $975.00 from Fund 8300. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

James J. Geremia & Assoc., Inc. Invoice #2 in the amount of $362.19 for House Lateral Inspection for 43 Pinecrest Ln – Fund 8100.

**Voted –** Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve and pay James J. Geremia & Assoc., Inc. Invoice #2 in the amount of $362.19 from Fund 8100. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Engineer’s Report:**

Mohegan Bridge Replacement

Mr. Dyment stated that Crossman Engineering and RIDOT are currently working on a bridge replacement on Broncos Hwy just before Douglas Pike. On that bridge are an existing force main and gravity sewers. RIDOT asked Ms. Richard if the BSC would like to have Beta Engineering design the sewer plan. Mr. Dyment’s opinion is that it would be better for the BSC to have Beta do a peer review of a design done by RIDOT. Mr. Dyment will contact RIDOT to inform them that he will do a review of the design as prepared by the Engineering firm of RIDOT’s choice.

Mr. Dyment stated that he met with the Town Manager and Jeff McCormick of Burrillville DPW to discuss the upcoming work on Chapel Street. Mr. Wood and Mr. McCormick would like Beta Group to review what Jim Geremia had pulled together as far as the two (2) alternatives and come up with their own recommendation. Mr. Dyment has reached out to RIDOT to obtain some information in order to put together a recommendation.

Mr. Emond stated that Michael Larocque had contacted him regarding a program in which a homeowner can borrow up to $10,000 in a low interest loan through the Town, which is offered through RIHMFC.

Mr. Dyment stated that he and Mr. Emond visited the new microbrewery last week. The owners have submitted an application to BSC. Their system is set up to manage their solids very well. Solid waste will be given to local farmers. The primary waste will be clean. The biggest issue could be a bad batch of beer, which would be sixty-two (62) gallons, in which case the owners stated that they will contact the sewer department. Temperature will not be an issue, as any hot liquid waste will be small amounts.

Mr. Dyment stated that cleaning out the grease in the raw influent wet well should be a high priority for the BSC. This will be a costly project, which is not included in the budget for Fiscal Year 20.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. all in favor, so voted.

**Attorney’s Report:**

Mr. Kane deferred the Attorney’s Report to Executive Session.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Report for the month of September, 2019

1. **WWTF OPERATIONS**
2. Influent to Treatment Facility – MGD

Average Daily Flow = 0.8869

Maximum Daily Flow = 1.0080 on 05-Sep

Minimum Daily Flow = 0.7220 on 29-Sep

Percent Average

Removal Concentration

1. Biochemical Oxygen Demand

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% min 10.0 mg/L

September achieved = 99.6% 1.1 mg/L

1. Total Suspended Solids

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% 15.0 mg/L

September achieved = 99.4% 2.2 mg/L

1. Total Phosphorus

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 0.10 mg/L

September achieved = 99.6% 0.053 mg/L

1. Total Ammonia

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.9 mg/L

September achieved = 89.1% 3.3 mg/L

1. Total Copper

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.0 ug/L

September achieved = 90.1% 25.5 ug/L

1. Disposed Sludge

Dry Tons Disposed of = 29.26

Number of Loads Removed = 34

Average Dry Tons / Load = 0.86

Effluent Permit Excursions

The Final Effluent sample sent out for copper analysis for sample date 9/5/19 measured 79-8 mg/L which is a Daily Maximum excursion. The Daily Maximum limit is 10.6 mg/L. The Secondary Effluent copper measured 9.2 ug/L on the same sample date. For the month of September, a total of four (4) samples were sent to Phoenix Laboratory for analysis. The results for sample dates 9/5/19, 9/12/19, 9/19/19 and 9/26/19 were 79.8 mg/L, 5.5 mg/L, 6.9 mg/L and 9.7 mg/L respectively. The average of the four results calculated to 25.5 mg/L monthly average. The monthly average limit is 10.6 mg/L; therefore, the September copper monthly average resulted in a second permit excursion for copper. Matthew Puglia of RIDEM was informed of the Daily Maximum excursion on 9/18/19.

The results for the 9/5/19 sample were not received until 9/16/19 at which time myself and Don Shurtleff began to investigate as to why the copper result for the 9/5/19 was so high. Don spoke to Phoenix Laboratory Director Phyllis Schiller and asked her to investigate their side to see if there was a multiplication error, or other lab error when handling the sample. She was also asked to rerun the sample. I looked at the filter system to see if there were any obvious issues with sand movement or backwash, but all filters seemed to be operating satisfactorily. The channels were checked with a sludge judge for sludge and one foot on each side was measured. The sludge was thin and black. Burrillville Cesspool was called and both channels were cleaned on Thursday 9/19/19. A sample of the sludge was reported at 228 mg/kg (or 228,000 ug/kg). Also, the channel sludge measured 2.27% solids which is equivalent to a primary sludge concentration. The sludge in the channels is a result of poor mixing.

Subsequent investigation looked at anything different that could have taken place during the time the sample was collected. Don reported that the only difference was that he used a different bottle to collect the composite sample. He used a larger bottle than the normal one used because he needed to collect a large volume as he was sending out the samples both for the 3rd quarter bioassay and annual priority pollutants along with the regular weekly samples. The bottle he used was a bottle that was only used to collect river water from the Pawtucket Reservoir for previous bioassays. To check to see if the bottle was a potential source of contamination, I instructed Don to place lab water in the bottle overnight and then send a sample to the lab for copper analysis as a bottle blank. The bottle blank copper was reported at 11.6 ug/L, which is unexpectedly high. Although there was significant contamination in the bottle, it probably was not enough to cause the full extent of the excursion, however, it may have contributed to it.

The conclusion, although tentative, is that possibly a disturbance in either or both of the channels caused sludge to pass through a cell(s) which caused a slug of copper to be released. In preparation for the Nexom testing, a sludge buildup had already been measured in both channels only two weeks after they had been cleaned. Prior to the onset of testing, both channels were cleaned again and the mixing pumps were relocated further down the channels to prevent a sludge blanket from developing. Three days into the testing, there is currently no sludge in either channel.

After Hours Activities

There were two (2) after hours call-ins for the WWTF.

* 9/5/19 – High Blended Sludge Tank alarm – Frank Lavallee and Steve Jones responded to the alarm. Purged bubbler tube which corrected tank level reading. Back to normal.
* 9/29/19 – Transfer Switch Loss of Power alarm – Nexom system AC power loss. Power back to normal. Reset alarms.

1. **COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

There were five (5) after hour collection systems call-in responses for the month of September 2019. Find the call-in table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Nature of Call / Alarm Condition | Issue Found |
| 9/2/19 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #1 & #2 Failed, High Wet Well | Soft-starts displaying CLF – Control Line Interruption. Power bump. Reset pumps and pumped wet well down. Return to normal. |
| 9/8/19 | Mapleville PS | Pump Room Alarm | Pump well floor was covered with three inches of water. Check valve was stuck open and water leaking through pump packing. Sump pump could not keep up with leakage. |
| 9/9/19 | Mapleville PS | Pump Room Alarm | Continuation of previous alarm condition. Burrillville Cesspool vacuumed water out of dry well. Replaced sump pump and repacked both pumps. |
| 9/15/19 | Beach Road PS | High wet well | Backed flushed pot, cleaned probe, pumped down wet well. |
| 9/21/19 | Beach Road PS | High wet well | Station not responding. Warrick controls tripped. Suction clapper on Pot 1 not closing. Reset power to Warrick Controls, back flushed Pot through suction line, cleared suction clapper. Bunch of wipes found after back flushing. |

Mr. Emond gave a brief summary of the Superintendent’s Report. There were two (2) permit excursions for the month of September, 2019.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Sewer Use/Sewer Assessment Write-Offs –** None

**The Attorney requests Executive Session of the Commission, pursuant to Rhode Island Open Meeting Law 42-46-5 (a) (2) to discuss litigation, Burrillville Sewer Commission vs. Nexom (arbitration).**

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to move the meeting to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Voted –** Mr. Andrews made a motion to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session. One (1) vote was taken. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Adjournment:**

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Batalon

Financial Aide

I have read the Minutes of the previous pages and hereby ratify the same.

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William Andrews Richard Nolan Russell Fontaine

Chairman Vice Chairman Secretary

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Gary Rouleau Daniel Joubert

Commission Member Commission Member