Town of Rutland

Board of Public Works

Minutes: January 13, 2020

Meeting Opened: 6:01 P.M.

Attendance:
Board Members Present: Sheila Dibb, Leah Whiteman, Mitch Ruscitti, Jeff Stillings, Wayne Walker
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Members Present: Mike Nicholson (Town Administrator), Tomeca Murphy (Secretary), Joe Buckley (Chief of DPW)

**Please note this meeting was recorded for Rutland Public Access Television & YouTube**

New Business: Sewer Abatement Discussion

DPW Director, Joe Buckley, provided the board with 5 sewer abatement requests from Rutland residents. In the interest of making a merit based decision, the names and addresses were removed from the informational packets. Chief Buckley clarified that standard practice is to abate swimming pools and the occasional emergency situation such as if a water heater breaks. For filling a swimming pool, the procedure is for the resident to contact the DPW to do a meter reading both prior to and after filling a swimming pool so that an exact number is obtained. In the case of irrigation systems, the town recommends having a certified plumber install a second water meter so that accurate numbers can be obtained for the water usage. Chief Buckley also stated that all decisions made by the board can be appealed by the residents. The abatement requests were presented as follows:

- **November 13, 2019**: The homeowner stated they had issues with their pool and also used their irrigation system. Chief Buckley recommended that the board abate the sewer charges for the pool, but not for the irrigation system. Mitch stated that there is a procedure in place for pool abatements and it was not followed by the home owner, and therefore, an abatement isn't warranted.
  - Motion to abate the sewer charges for the pool only—Motion made by Jeff Stillings, seconded by Wayne Walker; Sheila Dibb (yay), Leah Whiteman (yay), Mitch Ruscitti (nay). 4-1 vote at 6:11 P.M.

- **November 27, 2019**: Homeowner stated that when having their irrigation system installed, the contractor told them that the Town of Rutland doesn't allow for a second water meter. They later learned this is untrue and installed a second meter. As such, they requested an abatement for July 17, 2019 thru October 24, 2019. Chief Buckley recommended no action and the board agreed.
  - Motion to take no action on the sewer abatement request—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:18 P.M.

- **May 19, 2019**: Homeowner stated they planted 50 arborvitae trees and watered them. They also put in a 3,000 square foot lawn and asked for an abatement of the sewer charges based on their sewer usage over the last 2 quarters. Chief Buckley and the board recommended no action.
  - Motion to take no action on the sewer abatement request—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:27 P.M.
November 5, 2019: The homeowner stated they watered their new lawn after hydro seeding. Chief Buckley and the board recommended no action.  
   Motion to take no action on the sewer abatement request—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:31 P.M.

November 21, 2019: Homeowner stated that they filled their pool, but didn't notify the DPW before hand to obtain a reading. They are asking for a rebate of a prior bill. Chief Buckley and the board recommended no action.  
   Motion to take no action on the sewer abatement request—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Wayne Walker; vote unanimous at 6:36 P.M.

Public Comment  
Shawn Moore, 3 Edson Ave., asked if a homeowner uses a hose on their property, do they pay for the water and sewer portion? The board responded that the answer is yes.

Other  
Chief Buckley shared that a resident on Glenwood Rd. has asked if there’s an option to get rid of a sewer easement on their property. It is only 1 resident affected and it’s no longer used by the town. The board didn’t have enough information to comment, so Joe will bring additional details to the next meeting for discussion.

Adjournment  
Motion to close the meeting—Motion made by Mitch Ruscitti, seconded by Jeff Stillings; vote unanimous at 6:39 P.M.

Note: There was a 5 minute recess until the opening of the scheduled meeting of the Selectboard, which opened at 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tomeca Murphy  
Secretary