

**West Pubnico Sewer Committee
West Pubnico School Library
7:00 p.m., May 5, 2009
Minutes**

Present: Chairman Calvin d'Entremont, Warden Aldric d'Entremont, Councillor Bruce Hubbard, Councillor Kathy Bourque, Chief Administrative Officer Alain Muise, Members Delmar d'Entremont, Gus d'Eon, Harold d'Entremont, Floyd d'Entremont, Maurice d'Eon, and Acting Director of Public Works Lorelei Doucette.

Also Present: Gordon Amiro & Brian Surette of Amiro and Surette Trucking and Excavating Ltd., Vernon d'Eon, Richard (Bee) d'Entremont, and Howard d'Entremont.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Calvin d'Entremont at 7:20 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Added to the agenda is 3B Presentation - Request for Dennis Point Sewer Extension and 6A West Pubnico Sewer Announcement. It was moved by Bruce Hubbard, seconded by Gus d'Eon to accept the agenda with the additions.

Motion Carried

MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS

It was moved by Bruce Hubbard, seconded by Harold d'Entremont to accept the minutes of December 8, 2008.

Motion Carried

PRESENTATION – Request to Extend Sewer Service to Businesses on Dennis Point Rd.

Vernon d'Eon, representing Dennis Point Café was the first to speak to the committee. Mr. d'Eon expressed concern over his existing Environment approved on-site system and the close proximity to the butting marsh. Mr. d'Eon stated that a lot of water is drawn from the marsh area and it is important to protect the water source. He also states that there are 30 year old on-site sewer disposal systems serving existing fish plants. Mr. d'Eon is proposing that the committee consider extending the sewer to serve the industries and businesses on the Dennis Point Road in order to protect the water source and to enable expansions to existing businesses.

Richard (Bee) d'Entremont representing Acadian Fish Products also spoke. Mr. d'Entremont told the committee that the water he uses to process fish is regularly tested by Department of Fisheries and says “so far so good”. Acadian Fish also uses water to make 70 tons of ice per day for boats and the plant. Mr. d'Entremont expressed concern that if the water is ever contaminated that it would impact the fisheries and the plants. He would like to see the committee and Municipality act early before there is a water contamination issue.

Howard d'Entremont, representing Little Island Fisheries also spoke. He employs up to 120 workers during peak processing periods. He is very interested in seeing the sewer extended to Dennis Point before the Department of Environment becomes involved perhaps requiring new systems be installed or existing systems modified.

Bee d'Entremont also told the committee that their plants are doing more marketing now than ever before, selling to local markets such as Sobeys and that these businesses are often doing checks at the plant looking at things like cleanliness. Major retailers won't permit the use of salt water for fish processing, so fresh water is essential. He says they are being watched more closely and does not want to wait for a contamination issue before reacting.

Field beds at some of the fish plants, in some cases, are located under asphalt in parking lots, not easily accessible.

Vernon d'Eon finished up the discussion by asking the committee to consider their request and think about how this project could be done.

Chairman Calvin d'Entremont thanked the group for their time and assured the group that their proposal would be considered.

STATUS OF PHASE 1 OF THE SEWER UPGRADE PROJECT

Gordon Amiro informs the committee that two control panels have been installed, and one pump station has had the piping replaced. Gordon expressed frustration with Nova Scotia Power with their lack of coordination with the project resulting in a two week delay. Gordon stated that they are still waiting for four panels to arrive but that they estimate to have the project completed in a week.

BUDGET

CAO Alain Muise presents the 2009-10 Proposed West Pubnico Sewerage and Treatment Plant Budget to the committee. Mr. Muise outlines three proposals. Each of the proposals contain the same operating costs however have three different levy proposals changing the projected capital reserve line; for every \$10 increase to the rate or levy the capital reserved increases approximately \$6,000 (proposed budget attached). The proposed levies include (a) leaving the rate at \$211.00; (b) increasing to \$225.00; (c) increasing to \$235.00.

The committee discusses the options with the knowledge that the sewer treatment plant was reported to need upgrades since Horner's 1997 report. The need for a surplus to assist with this capital project is vital.

It is moved by Maurice d'Eon and seconded by Harold d'Entremont that that sewer rate increase to \$225.00 per equivalent unit for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

Motion Carried

Alain Muise informs the committee the budget will be brought to Council on May 12, 2009 for their approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

Alain Muise announces that the Building Canada Fund (BCF) application for the Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrade has been approved for funding. This project will receive up to \$3 million dollars from the federal and provincial government. Horner Associates are working on a report which will recommend upgrade options; Horner's initial estimate for the upgrade and the amount applied for through the BCF is \$4.5 million dollars. Two thirds funding (\$3 million) will be provided through BCF.

Discussion of the Dennis Point Road Sewer Extension continues with the committee. It is agreed that it is a serious concern but is not possible at this time as we have been instructed in writing by Environment that no extensions will be granted until the plant's performance improves to Environment's satisfaction. Until Phase 2 is underway it can not be considered.

Alain suggests to the committee that during the upgrade of the Sewer Treatment Plant, if funds allow and BCF approves, that possibly extensions to the sewer can be incorporated into the projects.

Chairman Calvin d'Entremont would like Horner Associates to arrange to present their recommendations to the committee as soon as they are ready with the report. Alain assures the Chair this will be done.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on motion by Delmar d'Entremont at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Harold d'Entremont.

Lorelei Doucette, Recorder

Approved: _____
DATE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN

Attachment: 2009/10 Proposed West Pubnico Sewer Budget