

**Organization** Town of Champion

**Board** Sewer Board

**Date and Time** Wednesday, January 12 2005 at 5:30 PM

**Place** Town of Leray Offices Board Room 8650 Leray St Evans Mills NY

**Contact** [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-2900

## Minutes

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TO: NYS ROUTE 3 CORRIDOR SEWER BOARD

FROM: Chris Vargulick, Secretary

DATE: January 13, 2005

RE: Minutes of January 12, 2005 meeting

Present: *Board members/voting representatives* - T. Buckley, D. McLallen(4:37),  
J. Scott, and R. Taylor

*Others:* K. Amyot, E. Berghorn, J. Condino, K. Dimmick, M. Ellilot,  
T. Falkenburg, S. Harter, K. Jordan, K. Montigelli, F. Phelps,  
J. Scott, K. Smith, M. Smith, C. Tuttle, C. Vargulick  
and K. Vebber

Absent: L. Longway

The NYS Route 3 Corridor Sewer/Development Board met on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the T/LeRay Municipal Building. T. Buckley called the meeting to order at 4:30PM.

The Board reviewed the minutes for December 14, 2004. Motion by R. Taylor, seconded by J. Scott to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes-3, Nays-0. Motion carried.

C. Tuttle reported that administrative personnel are completing the 2004 financial reconciliation as per the contract. Ms. Tuttle commented that there were no extraordinary items in the monthly report. There were no comments from the Board.

K. Jordan and K. Smith discussed plans for future phases in regards to available funding from RUS. The RUS funding available for water/sewer projects throughout New York State has been deeply cut. The Board had anticipated funding of \$1M but due to the cuts RUS will be limiting all awards to amounts no greater than \$500K per project. K. Dimmick suggested that funds be requested for Rutland and Black River individually. Board members reviewed data regarding the south Black River project including estimated hook-ups, flows, edu's, annual O&M costs, and proposed funding. Members also considered projected minimum user rates relative to annual costs.

Members noted that, while the Board continues to evaluate alternatives to an increase in the user rate, an annual user rate of \$396.51 must be reflected at public meetings discussing future phases.

J. Scott questioned the projected cost of construction in Rutland. K. Jordan responded that costs for Felts Mills are established but that the budget for project construction between Felts Mills and south Black River will be tight. K. Smith discussed recent memberships in environmental and lake organizations in an effort to identify alternative funding sources.

T. Buckley commented that the progress on the sewer system initiative to date has been remarkable and the project will be completed regardless of the extended timeline.

K. Jordan questioned whether T/Rutland or the V/Black River will act as lead agency for the south Black River project. The household income levels for south Black River and the entire T/Rutland are equivalent but it may be worthwhile to conduct an income survey on Route 3 to specifically assess the median income.

T. Buckley stressed the importance of completing the South Main Street section of the Village to bring the service out to NYS Route 3 to maximize development opportunities. The system has a twenty-five percent over sized capacity.

K. Jordan discussed the need for a cooperative approach to development to optimize capacity. T. Buckley remarked that a hook-up to the landfill would quickly use up excess capacity in the T/Champion without adding any assessment to the Town. K. Dimmick suggested assessing an impact fee on developers and using the fees to invest in new/upgraded sewer infrastructure. C. Tuttle stated that value should be considered as part of the criteria for

evaluation of expansions to the system.

Members discussed the need for affordable housing. D. McLallen questioned if there is any political leverage relative to Fort Drum's need for affordable housing. K. Jordan responded that one of the challenges to potential development is the cost of housing. \$130-\$150K homes are affordable to buyers but do not offer as an attractive return to developers. D. McLallen asked if apartment complexes were more feasible.

### **Construction Update - LeRay/Pamelia**

T. Falkenburg reported that Phase I has been completed. The balance of the contract shall be withheld pending a satisfactory spring inspection.

### **Rutland-Hamlet of Felts Mills**

The crossing at Felts Mills creek has been completed. The contractor will resume work next week with blasting.

### **Planning/Development**

K. Smith discussed an upcoming Quality Communities grant round. He distributed a preliminary draft of key elements for consideration by the component boards. The joint application will require approval from the involved community board and the NYS Route 3 Sewer Board. The submission deadline is February 25, 2005.

### **Other**

T. Falkenburg discussed two issues related to T/Rutland services. Linda Bayona, a property owner, has requested consideration for the electric costs associated with a grinder pump. Sewer service was constructed to two houses on a parcel, owned by Ms. Bayona, with a shared grinder pump. Subsequently, Ms. Bayona has subdivided the property and sold one of the homes. Electric service to the grinder pump is connected to the home Ms. Bayona retained ownership to. The Board authorized the Chairman to forward a letter to Ms. Bayona with an offer to install a second grinder pump. The cost of the grinder pump and construction would be borne by Ms. Bayona.

The second issue concerned a water service leak. The contractor for the T/Rutland water project had installed a meter pit and connected a line into a meter pit previously installed to obtain readings for sewer service billing only. The line connection in the original meter pit failed resulting in a water leak and a higher than expected water rent. The Board, by consensus, determined that the leak was not a result of the sewer system and therefore no accommodation will be made.

Motion by R. Taylor, seconded by D. McLallen to adjourn the meeting.

**The next regular meeting of the NYS Route 3 Corridor Sewer/Development Board will be held Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at the T/Rutland Municipal Building.**