

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: June 10, 2021
Date of Transcription: July 16, 2021
Transcribed by: Christiana Robbins

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Giberti called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Sewer Commissioners Present: James R. Giberti
Donna M. Bronk
Malcolm R. White
Peter G. Dunlop
Sandra L. Slavin

Sewer Commissioners Absent:

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent
Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer
Ralph Spinosa

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to accept the May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Giberti seconded.

VOTE: 2-0-2

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin made a motion to approve the March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Giberti seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Chairman Giberti seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-1

Commissioner Slavin added there was no meeting on May 27, 2021.

SEWER BUSINESS

1. EDU Billing

Chairman Giberti commented he believes Mr. Campinha has not had a chance to survey the places that were under discussion, saying it will be back on the agenda again for review.

2. Bio-Bot

Mr. Campinha noted this is just for the Board's knowledge, but the Sewer Department is involved in a countrywide COVID-19 study sponsored by the CDC, HHS, National Study of Health, and the Federal Government. There is no charge to the Sewer Department to participate in the follow up to COVID-19. Three separate pump stations located in different areas of Town (Narrows Pump Station, Heinz Field Pump Station, and Depot Street Pump Station) will be tested and the Sewer Department will report as to if COVID-19 is in the wastewater. Mr. Campinha continued and said we are in a good place right now and he hopes to stay there. He announced that as we [Massachusetts] open up and people start becoming in contact with one another again, we would be able to monitor what is happening and turn it over to the Board of Health. Mr. Campinha noted Wareham was one of the first [wastewater treatment] plants involved in the infancy stage in March [2020]. He stated Bio-Bot if a group of scientists from MIT (Massachusetts Institution of Technology) with doctorates degrees whom study wastewater and are able to convey what is happening in the communities, and it has been very successful. Mr. Campinha explained some more in-depth details about Bio-Bot such as sample shipping, data entry, and the Bio-Bot website.

Commissioner Bronk was concerned with the amount of time required to sample with the Water Pollution Control Facility being very short-staffed. Mr. Campinha enlightened Commissioner Bronk and told her it is just a sample and the sample is sent through pre-paid (By the Federal Government) FedEx packaging.

3. Kleinfelder Outfall

Mr. Campinha assured Chairman Giberti he [Mr. Campinha] already spoke with the Department of Transportation (D.O.T), Chalita Belfield, whom runs the DOT for the railroads. She agreed to meet with Mr. Campinha; however, she wanted something to have

in front of her before the meeting, allowing her and her group (Believed to be Jacobs Engineering) to review the documents. Mr. Campinha said after that, he will set a time to meet with Kleinfelder, The State of Massachusetts, the State's engineering and himself. He continued and said his goal is have approval and lay out a set of plans that will get us [WPCF] close to a shovel ready project. Mr. Campinha spoke a little bit on funding and the Kleinfelder Project before moving on.

4. GHD Updated Draft Flow Memorandum

Mr. Campinha introduced the Updated Draft Flow Memorandum to the Board of Sewer Commissioners before having GHD Engineer, Russ Kleekamp explain the draft memorandum in more depth. Mr. Kleekamp reminded the Board the discussion [that took place months prior to this meeting] was that once the new equalization basins (EQ Basins) are online (Significantly completed and the checklist is being utilized) the moratorium will be reevaluated based on the current status of the flows at the plant [WPCF]. He continued and discussed on page four the table of committed flows that also includes the queued projects that GHD worked with Mr. Campinha to get the list up to date. He claims this table does not include the "Unlimited AD Makepeace agreement". Mr. Kleekamp informed the Board of Sewer Commissioners the committed flows are at 246,000 gallons per day (GPD). He explained the 246,000 GPD is between the queued projects and the future projects that GHD is aware of.

Mr. Kleekamp continued explaining the Draft Flow Memorandum stating "Basically what the moral of the story is one item of the table on page six. What this tells us is 2018 when we had all the Nor'easter's and problems with the plants we averaged about 900,000 GPD, and over that year, there was approximately 60 inches of rain. In 2020, we averaged 980,000 GPD and we had 40 inches of rain. So what this tells us is that your wastewater flow is increasing..." Chairman Giberti asked how COVID-19 had an impact on the wastewater flow and Mr. Kleekamp informed him "We can debate and speculate...it's hard to say 100% with certainty but you know everyone's at home more..." Mr. Kleekamp continued and explained a little more about water usages and commented the flows at WPCF have been fairly constant with no erratic highs or lows. Mr. Kleekamp went into depth speaking on erratic highs and lows and the effect commercial businesses have on the highs and lows. He pointed out page seven the final paragraph stating what is available for capacity at the WPCF.

Mr. Kleekamp stated with the over-commitments that expansion will be necessary in the future. He believes there should be a discussion on what to do with the shovel ready projects, and elaborated on his thoughts relating to shovel ready projects. Mr. Kleekamp began talking about the capacity issue again and the fact the WPCF is over capacity and an expansion plan will be necessary soon. Mr. Kleekamp continued speaking on commitments and the small group of commitments whom have gallons and have not used them. The discussion also had the topic of allocation policies and if they apply to prior projects due to the unused gallons for projects that

are considered “on-going”. Mr. Campinha said the Board [of Sewer Commissioners] has to make some decisions as to what to do with the 180,000 gallons that are available and the 270,000 committed, and decide who gets gallons and who does not. Mr. Campinha said, “I would suggest an absolute [policy] $A=B=C$. So if we’re saying that you have one year and we give you a gallon, you have one year to use that gallon... that gallon goes to the next person in line that’s ready.” Chairman Giberti said he believes there was a discussion that explained if you have one year to use it unless you come back to us [Board of Sewer Commissioners] with a reason it needs to be extended...” The discussion continued for a few moments about how the policy affects certain projects.

Commissioner White said he thought council advised the Board that if we [Board of Sewer Commissioners] have a public hearing we could pull those gallons back. He continued and stated he has an issue with this because it is gallons that cannot be billed, but he finds the policy of a one-year holding limit for gallons is fair. The Board elaborated a little bit on what needs to be done and Mr. Campinha updated the Board on the ongoing projects slightly. Mr. Campinha and Mr. Kleekamp spent some time discussing the capacity left for the plant as well as how much has been committed. Commissioner Slavin clarified for the rest of the participating members saying, “Right now were over committed by 66,000. That is the 246,000 minus the 180,000” Mr. Kleekamp told her that is “100% correct”. Chairman Giberti and Mr. Kleekamp discussed what would happen at WPCF if all of the 180,000 gallons got used. They then discussed capacity and flows on the report as well as some of the projects. The discussion with Mr. Kleekamp and Chairman Giberti became an open group discussion that also spoke on more options for the WPCF along with financials, 40B Projects, DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), the moratorium and increasing discharge. Mr. Campinha briefly brought up metering the Bourne manhole stating, the IMA gives Bourne 200,000 gallons to use and it is estimated they only use around 98,000.

5. GATRA

Commissioner Slavin noted the GATRA project was not listed in the queue due to the fact there had been no formal vote on the project to have it placed into the queue. Mr. Campinha and Commissioner Slavin discussed Three Tow Road for a few moments about another possible project.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to put the GATRA project for Three Tow Road in the master queue sheet for anywhere between 1,000 and 5,000 gallons per day (GPD). Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

6. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT-** Mr. Campinha wanted to bring to the Board of Sewer Commissioners attention the mass amount of calls the WPCF has received regarding pump station mowing. With the WPCF having over 40 pump stations and short staff, he would like the public to know if they want to call the WPCF and ask for permission that is allowed. He did emphasis with the WPCF not having, much staff, it is more important to keep the plant running and preventing backups from occurring, rather than landscaping.
- B. Kleinfelder Sheet-** Mr. Campinha reminded the Board he needs them to **sign** the Kleinfelder Contract sheet that was approved weeks prior.
- C. Narrows Project-** Mr. Campinha said this project will take \$2.3 Million opposed to the \$6.8 Million to replace it.
- D. Coupons From Heinz Station-** Mr. Campinha commented on the Heinz Pump Station Force Main and the coupon work being done there and at Narrows. This will allow for a proper look at the conditions of the pipes.
- E. Condos-** The condos Mr. Campinha informed the Board of is tying into the sewer system with the appropriate and required conditions that were established prior to the tying in.
- F. Littleton Drive-** Mr. Campinha updated the Board on the Littleton Drive Project stating they have had the proper paperwork and permits signed
- G. ROOTS-** Mr. Campinha talked about the tree roots, how they enter the sewer system, and the detrimental effects they can have on the sewer system and the pipes. He commented the roots look to get in at the weakest point of the line and once it is in the pipe it begins to start down the lateral and cross over property. He also stated for our policy we [WPCF] will not touch the tree nor the roots; however we will provide the root product. July/August the WPCF will have a root program spray the lines internally from the force mains and up into the laterals. Mr. Campinha said to please come get the root kill as it is free and it just needs to be signed out.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

- A. Sump pumps –** Commissioner Slavin and Mr. Campinha discussed federal funds available to replace Sump Pumps with Grinder Pumps. The discussion went into depth discussing programs, funding amounts, and areas of Town they would like Grinder Pumps. Mr. Kleekamp commented about the FEMA BRIC funding will have \$1 Billion in the next “round” of funding. That \$1 Billion will go between the 50 states, and the WPCF can make a solid argument.
- B. Houses not connected to Town Sewer –** no update
- C. EDU Rates –**

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

June 24, 2021 6:30 p.m. Zoom

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:38 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins

Department Assistant

Attest: 

Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed 12/4/2021

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____