

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: June 24, 2021
Date of Transcription: July 23, 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
Peter G. Dunlop
Sandra L. Slavin

Sewer Commissioners Absent: Malcolm R. White

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

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes to be approved at this meeting.

SEWER BUSINESS

1. EDU Billing

Commissioner Bronk asked the Board how a basic charge is being put when the Board is still discussing rates. Chairman Giberti reminded Commissioner Bronk two and three bedrooms have been discussed. He elaborated a little more and stated he and Commissioner White have been meeting with proposals that are subject to discussion to the Board of Sewer Commissioners. He continued and stated he does not have these meetings to hide anything, but compared to an open discussion it is a little easier to discuss rates.

2. Contracts

Mr. Campinha informed the Board of Sewer Commissioners of the three (3) new contracts for Wastewater Treatment Chemicals. The new contracts are for Hydrated Lime, Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite (Known as Bleach), Soda Ash, and Poly Aluminum

Chloride. Chairman Giberti asked Mr. Campinha how many companies are repeat people whom the WPCF¹ has dealt with. Mr. Campinha stated only three (3) or four (4) companies are repeats due to the fact with shipping Chemicals it is done in bulk on tractor trailers. This can make shipping an issue especially with larger companies because the price of trucking the product is also factored into the total. He also explained that because the prices for chemicals are on the rise, the WPCF looks within New England for products.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the Univar contract for Soda Ash. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

MOTION: Commissioner Dunlop motioned to accept the bid for Borden and Remington for Hydrated Lime and Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to approve the Holland Company contract for Poly Aluminum Chloride. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

3. Moratorium

Chairman Giberti informed the Board letters were sent out (Reference the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes for more information on the letters being referenced.) to the people in the queue. One of the letters discussed was 3128B Cranberry Highway, Settlers Glen with roughly 10 duplexes, sent in by GAF Engineering. The next letter reviewed was 83 Sandwich Road. Mr. Campinha explained the person doing the project would like to wait for approval before investing into engineering and plans for the proposed 40B project with 12 total units. The Board of Sewer Commissioners discussed the tie-in, engineering, and grinder pumps for this project. Robinwood Road was the next letter discussed, Chairman Giberti pointed out the project is looking at 4,800 gallons per day (GPD²) and a low pressure sewer force main, and Mr. Campinha commented it is seven (7) individual homes. The last letter discussed was the GAF Tower Terrace project. This project is a single family home that is going to go through another property to come to the sewer on Tower Terrace. Mr. Campinha explained there is an easement in place at the house behind

¹ WPCF- Water Pollution Control Facility

² GPD- Gallons Per Day

it, and he received an email saying the project is moving forward. It is expected to be roughly 330 GPD.

The Board of Sewer Commissioners slightly reviewed the GATRA project, stating this project is assumed to be between 1,000 GPD and 5,000 GPD. Next, the Board talked about the Minot Forest Condos and their progress. Mr. Campinha explained one of the two buildings are up, they're getting ready to tie into the sewer. He continued and said the foundation is in and the project is moving forward. This specific project had a bond to be paid before tying into the sewer due to the pipes condition. The conditions for this project to tie into the sewer are \$20,000 Bond, Pumping Truck, and a Reputable Contractor. Mr. Campinha and Commissioner Dunlop had a small discussion about the conditions for the Minot Forest Project. Another project discussed was Littleton Drive. Mr. Campinha informed the Board of Sewer Commissioners that Littleton Drive has hired someone to move the project forward. Commissioner Slavin commented although the Littleton Drive Project did not get the funding for the Clubhouse, the intent was never to use the CPA funds for the clubhouse, but the project may be scaled back. Mr. Campinha said the line [Sewer Line] is gravity and they are putting grinder pumps to that gravity manhole. The Board of Sewer Commissioners did discuss the project a little more in depth. Next, the Board talked about 3013 Cranberry Highway. The project is for 5,600 GPD. Commissioner Slavin noted the project was put into the queue formally on April 8, 2021. Mr. Campinha talked about the letter he received for the single-family home project on Oak Street. He told the Board, GAF Engineering presented the set of plans for the lot to be split. With the lots split, the second one will be tied to sewer through the first lot. Mr. Campinha told the Board of Sewer Commissioners the tie in has already been approved. The last project discussed was the Assisted Living project. Mr. Campinha said the project does not have a time frame but the project is moving forward. Commissioner Slavin commented the project was approved around 20 years and it is now waiting for approval from planning or zoning.

4. Moratorium

Chairman Giberti asked the Board of Sewer Commissioners if "At this particular juncture do we want to remove the moratorium on these pieces and authorize them based on the information we've gotten from Russ (GHD Engineer)?" Mr. Campinha said he believes they are all good projects and the report the Board received says the WPCF can move forward, although after this batch of projects the next may go through the same process. Commissioner Slavin said the request exceeds the 180,000 GPD the WPCF has available which means not all of the projects can be accepted. Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer joined the discussion to talk about the remaining gallons and capacity more. He stated the remaining capacity at the WPCF is 180,000 GPD, but we do have to honor the 100,000 GPD remaining for the Town of Bourne. He said to keep an eye on the 180,000 gallons and as it gets lower and lower

the WPCF and GHD can either institute another moratorium or plan another method to deal with that.

Commissioner Slavin pointed out the gallons for the Minot Forest Condos, the two (2) single family home projects, Tremont Nail, Chapel Lane, and the Assisted Living are not included in the report. Mr. Kleekamp told Commissioner Slavin the report are numbers that were given to GHD through the WPCF. He continued and also stated he believes they use a title five sizing, which is a conservative way to estimate water use. He explained the title five sizing and gave a few examples on what that may look like. He continued explaining capacity a little more the Board and Mr. Campinha. Mr. Kleekamp continued speaking to the Board and said "You have a good chunk of capacity, it will likely be used up at some point between now and three to five years from now. Once we hit that number... there's really no more Band-Aids at the plant." Chairman Giberti asked Mr. Kleekamp, based off everything he knows and has said, would he recommend approving what is in the queue, with the exception of GATRA. Mr. Kleekamp responded with the basins in and online it gives him much more of a level of comfort and there is no need in keeping the moratorium any longer. Chairman Giberti then asked Mr. Kleekamp if he would recommend the Board of Sewer Commissioners reinstitute the moratorium for six (6) months and reassess it at that point in time with usages. Commissioner Bronk commented she believes they should keep track of the flow and Chairman Giberti said that is what they're keeping track of. A small discussion took place after these questions.

Mr. Campinha joined the conversation and spoke on how he looking at a decentralized wastewater plant in West Wareham. This will alleviate the flow from the industrial park, the trailer park (Which is approximately 87,000 GPD), and it will not go to the WPCF. He stated he believes the project could be done in two (2) to three (3) years with help of talking to the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Campinha then explained to Commissioner Bronk the WPCF is looking at plans to expand and relieve some of the pressure on the Water Pollution Control Facility. Mr. Kleekamp said he would not have concerns about lifting the moratorium due to the fact the queued list is for roughly 30,000 gallons per day (32,395 gallons exactly). He also stated the larger projects take a lot more time to design and process, end up being multi-year projects. He continued and said the WPCF definitely wants to watch the 180,000 GPD and beginning on June 24, 2021 every project that gets tied in, gets checked off the queue and subtract the projected gallons from the capacity left. Mr. Kleekamp stressed he will continue to do work with Mr. Campinha and "keep an eye" on the flows and major projects. He elaborated and said the large projects have to go through multiple boards, approvals and a lot of engineering. The discussion continued for a couple moments.

Mr. Campinha stated his biggest concern is when people add to their homes on sewage areas, going from two (2) bedrooms to eight (8) bedrooms and it is considered unaccounted flow. Commissioner Slavin commented the homes also use to be

seasonal and now they are year-round. She continued and said she would like to approve the six projects in the queue list and start a new list for the 50-60 units proposed for Tremont nail, along with GATRA. (GATRA has not come before the Board of Sewer Commissioners to present the proposed project or plans). Mr. Kleekamp urged the Board to make it known to the other Department Heads in the Town of Wareham that although the moratorium is lifted, we [the WPCF] is still overcommitted so please do not "open the flood gates". Commissioner Slavin and Commissioner Dunlop began talking about the queue sheet and some of the projects within the queue.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin supported the motion to release the 32,000 gallons for the projects on the queue. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

A small discussion about miscellaneous topics arose for a short moment.

5. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Annual Report-** Mr. Campinha commented on the annual report that must be finished by July 31, 2021 stating what the Board of Sewer Commissioners has been doing for the Town of Wareham. He stated he will have a copy of his report, but he wanted the Sewer Commissioners to know they have the right to write a report.
- B. Staffing-** Mr. Campinha told the Board two (2) people were at the WPCF on Monday. The staffing requirement is 18.5. He explained he has brought the issue up to the Town, but he did want to speak on privatizing. Mr. Campinha has been looking into private visitations for getting personnel in. Next Tuesday he is meeting with Tom to bring, all of that forward because by law the WPCF is required to do something. Mr. Campinha spoke on the staffing issue for a few more moments, specifically speaking on his fears for sewer backups and operating the plant. He also stated he has two staff from Weston and Sampson that do half a day of work. Mr. Campinha said he has talked to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and let them know the position the plant is in, stating, "It's critical. It is no longer acceptable, it is critical". Mr. Campinha went into more depth about the staffing issue and the critical state the WPCF is in.
- C. Wankinquoah-** Mr. Campinha stated the line is failing, and he is looking at putting grinder pumps in that area. He disclosed he is looking to do five (5) roads that tie into the Ruggles [Pump Station] from that side. The gallons are significant, and he expressed that once grinder pumps are put in, there is no infiltration and inflow because the system cannot take whatever gallons are going to the sewer lines now. He continued and stated, as the WPCF continues throughout Wareham, some of

these developments will be required grinder pumps. Chairman Giberti stated” He is talking about the piping that would only be four feet down instead of seventeen (17) feet down, therefore eliminating the water problem that exists at the present time.”

Mr. Campinha continued and said the force mains are solid so there is no way water can get into them and cannot take the flow from the sump pump. He also stated the grinder pumps can have flow meters put in on the back, which would allow for the WPCF to see what’s really happening with flow. When the power goes out, the WPCF takes their truck and will go around and empty them.

- D. Grinder Pumps-** Mr. Campinha and the Board of Sewer Commissioners had an in-depth discussion about the grinder pumps for a few moments. Mr. Campinha stated he has to see the feasibility and is still doing research because some roads are private and some are public, but once all the information is received, the WPCF will begin to approach it. The grinder pumps are going to be at the very end between the street and property line so the WPCF can service and pump the grinder pumps. Commissioner Slavin asked “How would the connection from the sump pump be eliminated?”, and Mr. Campinha told her a sump pump can pump more gallons than a grinder pump, meaning if a grinder pump can’t handle the flow it will back up into the house. He stated the WPCF is looking at a grant banning pipes to tie in sump pumps. Mr. Kleekamp joined the discussion and said there are more ways to make this palatable for the public. He suggested the Town could do an incentive for the homeowners. One example he used was the Caltech Infiltrators. He said “If you’re going to put a grinder pump in, you’re going to have to excavate an area in your front yard to put the grinder pump. Maybe the town purchases the Caltech Infiltrators...” Mr. Kleekamp continued for a few moments and gave another suggestion for a “cheat sheet”. He elaborated on the idea of a cheat sheet to the Board of Sewer Commissioners, stating “You could give them a little cheat sheet [with] what to do with your new grinder pump...in the event of a power outage...” He spoke for a few moments on his suggestions as well as describe what an infiltrator looks like, along with what it does, and he touched on water tables and high water levels as well.

- E. Pump Stations-** Mr. Campinha commented the WPCF is going to raise the ability to waterproof the pump stations to a higher elevation. The projects are on-going and long term, and the WPCF is trying to tie everything in.

- F. Remote Treatment Plant-** Chairman Giberti pointed out a company is now producing a remote treatment plant that could work for Wareham. The treatment plant would divert flow from the WPCF and the remote technology will allow adjustments to be made from the WPCF. Chairman Giberti said “Its not like were just waving a flag and saying were not doing anything.” Mr. Campinha commented on the nitrogen discharge at the WPCF, bragging the Water Pollution Control is allowed 54 pounds of nitrogen in the river per day and they do around 25. Mr. Campinha continued speaking to the board about capacity and told them “Our

journey for capacity has ended. We need to do something or we just don't do any more sewer, period."

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

- A. Sump pumps –
- B. Houses not connected to Town Sewer – One more home has tied in. An updated list will be coming soon.
- C. EDU Rates –

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Liaison- Commissioner Slavin noted at the past Board of Selectman's meeting, Peter Teitelbaum, Esq. suggested he could become a Co-Liaison to the Board of Sewer Commissioners. Commissioner Dunlop commented the current liaison will come if he is asked and Commissioner Slavin told him, "We've asked him to do some help for us to get water numbers and nothings ever happened." Commissioner Bronk shared her opinion stating "I personally feel that Patrick has been very helpful" and the Board discussed this slightly. Chairman Giberti claimed "If we're going to have an additional warm body taking up space and being our liaison, I would only go along with it as soon as they show up with the information necessary and have us receive all the information that we need from the water [departments] in order to restructure the EDU billings. But until they have that agreement in hand with the water department, I don't believe we need any other liaison." Mr. Campinha announced "My only statement is whoever does whatever they do, I hope they do it in the best interest of the enterprise because it is all about the enterprise, it is all about the ratepayers and sewer users and the problems were having, and so whoever our liaison is, I would like them to work in our best interest and not anybody else's best interest." The discussion continued about a Co-Liaison for the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned that Chairman Giberti sends a letter to the selectman recommending Patrick Tropeano continues to be the Sewer Commissioners one and only liaison. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 3-1-0

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

July 8, 2021 6:30 p.m. Zoom

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins

Department Assistant

Attest: 

Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed 12/6/21

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____