

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: September 21, 2023
Date of Transcription: October 25, 2023
Transcribed by: Christiana Robbins

1. MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Sewer Commissioners Present: Bernard Pigeon
Peter G. Dunlop
Sandra L. Slavin (Joined VIA ZOOM)
Robert Scanlon JR

Sewer Commissioners Absent: James R. Giberti

Also Present: Anastasia Rudenko. GHD, Engineer
Marc Drainville, GHD Engineer

SEWER BUSINESS

1. GHD Presentation – Power-Point Slides Attached

The Board heard a presentation from two (2) GHD Engineers to discuss the Wareham Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). The presentation began with a discussion on the project background. The original CWMP for the Town of Wareham was done for a 20-year planning horizon that focused primarily of sewerage portions of the town that could not sustain on-site septic systems, had bad soils, or high groundwater. A majority of those areas have been implemented, and now the focus is the next 20 year period. GHD is looking at replacing the equipment and then also looking at additional needs for the town that have emerged in the last 20 years, as well as addressing the current Sewer Moratorium and the findings of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project, which shows nitrogen impaired waters.

The CWMP Process has three (3) major steps, which are: The Needs Assessment, then the Alternative Analysis, and then a recommended plan based on the most cost effective solution. The first step of the project was to establish the wastewater flows for the 20-year horizon. In order to establish the flow, the engineers worked with the influent flow data, and then worked with the town to identify what projects have already been committed to the WPCF. The discussion then included some information on TMDL's,

as well as some nitrogen-impaired waterways identified in Wareham. Information regarding septic-systems and their correlation to nitrogen, population growth in the town and flow was briefly discussed.

The total future flow to be managed is estimated to be about 3.5 Million Gallons Per Day (GPD), which includes population growth projections. The discussion also included some talk about how to relate gallons to EDU's. The next step of the analysis, which is currently underway, is developing alternatives that can be used to meet the wastewater needs that were recently discussed. Three (3) alternatives being investigated are treatment and expansion, at the existing wastewater facility either to treat a portion or a all of the needs. Another opportunity being looked into is a remote treatment facility and opportunities for a regional solution. There was also a mention of possible treated groundwater recharge or a discharge to the ocean. The discussion continued.

The plant is going to have additional solids handling capacity which will help with the struggle of disposing of sludge. Effluent discharge was also discussed, and it brought up talk of nitrogen as well. The ocean outfall option is being collaborated on with a Woods Hole Oceanographic Scientist, Jim Churchill, to look at hydrodynamic modeling at the Town of Wareham. A few key parameters for the ocean outfall includes depth of the area, current of the ocean, and something that will meet all other factors. Three (3) Environmental groups have told GHD that the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) is the most ideal location.

Groundwater Discharge is a third option but needs a viable site, that is not close to a wetland, flood zone, or a Zone 2 area. The project is limited to a number of sites, but GHD has worked with USGS Regional Model for Wareham to look at specific sites. This is an example of treated recharge. There are open sand beds, which allows for a lot of water recharge. The water recharge is through a small pipe, then percolates down to the groundwater, and migrates with the groundwater to the surface water. Initial investigations currently are being conducted to see if the soils are suitable, and then through particle tracking, GHD will be able to assess the Environmental Impacts.

The last step is to continue developing the alternatives analysis, which has alternatives for centralized collection system treatment discharge. Another item discussed briefly was On-Site Septic System Programs.

Corrin from Buzzards Bay Coalition asked are the alternatives considering limiting a potential increase of the Agawam outfall to 2 MGD or are you (GHD) anticipating going to 3.5 MGD to meet the needs?. The answer provided was GHD looks at both; likely 2 MGD will be the practical limit. A brief discussion continued.

2. NEW BUSINESS

3. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

September 28, 2023 Time: 6:30pm Meeting with Bourne Sewer Commissioners
October 12, 2023 at 6:30pm. 54 Marion Road Wareham, MA 02571. Room 320.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

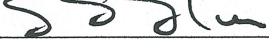
VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:23 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins

Department Assistant

Attest: 

accepted
4-0-0

Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed _____

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____