

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: October 22, 2020
Date of Transcription: October 28, 2020
Transcribed by: Christiana Robbins

1. MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Sewer Commissioners Absent:

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent
Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer
Patrick Tropeano, Board of Selectman Member

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Commissioner Slavin motioned to accept the October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes with an amendment. Commissioner White seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-2

SEWER BUSINESS

1. Abatements

a. 388 Marion Road

The Board of sewer Commissioners reviewed an abatement application for 388 Marion Road. The request recommendation is the abatement be denied due to the policy not being followed, of having the water shut off for at least one year.

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to accept Director Campinha's recommendation and deny the abatement. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-2-0

b. 311 Onset Ave

The Board reviewed another abatement application for 311 Onset Ave. The abatement had been previously approved but due to clerical error, the account was never put on hold.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the abatement. Commissioner White seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Continued Discussion From the October 8, 2020 Meeting

The discussion from October 8, 2020 was continued at this meeting, regarding sewer capacity, Bourne, and a couple more miscellaneous subjects. GHD Engineer Russ Kleekamp stated a plant evaluation that will focus on the flows already coming into WPCF, as well as the commitments already made would be done.

A draft memorandum was distributed to the Board where information relating to the 60,000 gallons per day from Rosebrook and the 500,000 gallons a day from the business overlay district was included. Mr. Kleekamp explained that the existing flows, on top of the commitments already made, would put the plant at 93% capacity, which is not including the 500K gallons from the business overlay district. In total, 275,000 gallons have been committed for various developments. With the addition of the business overlay district and the 275K gallons, the WPCF is at 98% of the designed capacity. With over 80% capacity an expansion plan must be started, and the DEP will concern themselves with the issue. Mr. Kleekamp's professional recommendation is to allow no more tie-ins due to the condition currently present at the Water Pollution Control Facility. This recommendation was made due to excessive I&I flows the WPCF sees as well. With heavy, Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) that can cause a non-permitted discharge allowed by the existing permit. That could attract the DEP in a negative manner, and potentially receive a consent order for plant improvements.

By having a small plan, the WPCF may be able to buy themselves more time. With the Equalization Basins (EQ Basins), this can help with the excessive flows. On top of new EQ Basins, Denite Filters will also bring capacity to the current code. High nutrient loading is an issue as well because of phosphorus. Phosphorus can cause settling issues because of the density. When the high flows push through the

WPCF, it brings the solids with it and clogs the denitrification filters. When the denites are clogged, they must be taken offline to do a backwash, however flow continues. With the presented facts and data Mr. Kleekamp recommended no additional flow until both additions are built and a re-evaluation of the plant will be done after the EQ Basins are in. (By summer 2021 the EQ Basins are expected to be online). Commissioner Slavin contributed to the conversation stating people need to know they cannot use the flow we have committed to until another date. Russ Kleekamp confirmed that would need to be done, but suggested maybe exceptions can be made. For example, if they are in the middle of construction, but overall with the known condition of the plant it is not in the town's best interest to keep allowing flow. Mr. Campinha listed Great Hill, AD MakePeace, Bourne, Woodland cove, and many other projects that are currently ongoing, and stating there are "major projects with repercussions" that will be affected. He does not know how that can/will go.

Patrick Tropeano suggested a package treatment plant at AD MakePeace. He said it could be very difficult when you commit gallons, and people spend a lot of money for starting projects, to then have it reversed. A short discussion arose from this until Commissioner Dunlop asked about I&I. Mr. Campinha said there was roughly two-miles of pipe lined and "it just pushed the I&I further down the line. [Workers] plugged the holes in the pipe, and it raised the water table and brought [I&I] down the line to another hole". Mr. Campinha said for every single inch of rain it is estimated the WPCF sees 110K gallons of inflow and infiltration.

Commissioner White suggested possibly "sun-setting" some of the projects/commitments by putting them on hold, also asking where that puts the town liability wise. Commissioner White said the Sewer Commissioner are just asking for "a chance to catch up". Commissioner White and Director Campinha continued the conversation on pipe lining and I&I. Commissioner White asked Engineer Kleekamp what percent of I&I is seen in new systems compared to older systems? Mr. Kleekamp answered his question by stating in old systems the Inflow & Infiltration is anywhere from 35% to 39%, while in new systems it is closer to 25%. Commissioner White asked what percent of flow might be I&I for the WPCF and Mr. Kleekamp told him anywhere from 20-30% of flow may be I&I.

Commissioner Slavin asked about 40B projects, considering the Board of Sewer Commissioners has seen three different 40B projects and two are tabled, worrying with the current capacity issue, that the 40B's will forcefully be tied in. Mr. Tropeano said if there is no capacity you will not have to supply them sewer. However, Mr. Campinha said he has read that in Boston some places were forced to allow these 40B's to tie in even with sewer issues and others were not, it could be case-by-case. Mr. Tropeano said by denying a 40B project sewer it just means they will need to design their own system. Commissioner Slavin then asked if there should be a statement put out for no-more hookups. Chairman Giberti said professionals were paid for their work; therefore, we should listen to the research. Mr. Tropeano

suggested a “drop dead date” for people on the list, stating give them a timeframe to hookup and if they do not do it by that date then they lose the capacity.

Mr. Kleekamp suggested the town works with the people rather than against. He stated the town could approach properties in the middle of their construction phase that have flows allocated, and possibly let them tie in but nothing after that. Mr. Kleekamp said then if there is an unpermitted discharge, they can explain to the DEP the issue was brought to the Board of Sewer Commissioner’s attention through the engineering document presented by Mr. Kleekamp, and immediate action was taken and a memo was imposed, but the commitments already given out could not be stopped. Chairman Giberti said to push all commitments off until the EQ Basins are in.

Commissioner Dunlop asked about the engineer recommendation regarding the effluent. Mr. Kleekamp said there are options for additional discharge. The permit for the WPCF is for 1.56 MGD (million gallons per day), but the plant can treat 2M. One option is the sand infiltration bed. The sand bed looks like “a giant cranberry bog but without vines”, can increase discharge. This particular method discharges the water to the groundwater application. Mr. Kleekamp continued, saying if DEP was contacted it is highly likely they would allow an expansion of the collection system, because the WPCF needs to offset the amount of nitrogen being discharged. Mr. Campinha said he has a meeting with the DEP and EPA October 23, 2020 and the argument will be made the WPCF should not have to do anything with their numbers. By increasing to 2MGD the WPCF’s sand filters and clarifiers cannot handle that increase, so plant modifications will need to be made. Mr. Kleekamp explained that expanding to 2MGD will only cover the committed flows and AD MakePeace. It is a short solution, but going beyond 2MGD is dependent upon what the town will need personally, and that is shown in the Comprehensive Waste Management Plan (CWMP).

MOTION: Chairman Giberti motioned to notify the Town Administrator, Planning Department, Redevelopment Authority, Selectmen, Building Department and other departments on issuing capacity for nine-months. Commissioner White seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Tropeano brought up the fact that with the memo, if sewer is available in an area while the memo is out and a house is being built; after the memo is lifted, they have five years to tie in. Mr. Campinha confirmed that this is true. The discussion regarding sections of town that have sewer but with empty lots, and if they were accounted for or not.

3. Kleinfelder Drilling

Mr. Caminha explained the contract for Kleinfelder is a drilling project that will start at the Water Pollution Control Facility and end at the Cape Cod Canal. Drilling will be done under the river, and under the Railroad tracks, to then come up on Onset Ave somewhere, and then go back underground to the Canal. The amendment presented is a language change in the contract, to terms and conditions established by the Town Counsel. The Board did not have to vote on this matter, it was just to make them aware of the problem.

4. Synagro

Mr. Campinha went over the Synagro Amendment stating, this is an amendment to the contract. Due to issues with sludge disposal nationwide, Mr. Campinha and the Town Council discussed procurement regulations and noticed a bid is not needed. With the cost of sludge rising almost 40% because of capacity, the procurement regulation will allow the current contract to be extended another year.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to extend the Synagro contract for one-year. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

5. Bi-Annual Water Readings

Chairman Giberti stated he was looking at getting the Selectman's assistance in obtaining the water readings from the Wareham Water District and the Onset Water District on a regular basis. Patrick Tropeano, a member on the Board of Selectman, said he attended the Board of Sewer Commissioners meeting to see if the Sewer Commissioners will allow the Selectman to help them obtain the water readings from the two districts.

MOTION: Commissioner Dunlop motioned that the Sewer Commissioners request the assistance of the Selectman in bi-annually obtaining the water readings. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0

6. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Campinha began his report discussing the meeting he will attend on October 23, 2020 with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The meeting is to discuss the increasing flow to the Agawam River, as well as to discuss the 4mg/L (milligrams per liter) discharge is nitrogen.

Next, Mr. Campinha brought attention to the project that has started at Sea Street. He said the processes were practiced in Hamilton Beach, where a felt and fiberglass liner was tested with the addition of the Aquatic Water safe Epoxy Mr. Campinha is adamant to use. The first test was with the fiberglass liner and Aquatic Water safe Epoxy, where it was stiff and used 70 pounds of pressure to get in the line. The specs were then modified and the test was tried with a felt liner, which moved much nicer with the same epoxy as the fiberglass test.

While talking about the Aquatic Water safe Epoxy, Director Campinha explained the manholes in Smith needed special attention. The asphalt has been broken by hand, and the work to raise the manholes four feet is being done manually. The manholes are in the marsh and Mr. Campinha wants to disrupt the environment as little as possible. Once the manholes are raised, they will also be coated with the Epoxy internally. A change order roughly between \$12,000 and \$15,000 will be requested allowing proper work to be done to the manholes. The Water Pollution Control Facility does still need to maintain and clean the manholes. Commissioner Slavin, whom is also on the Conservation Committee, commented on the work being done at Smiths, stating because it was all done manually the Conservation is okay with the work. Commissioner Dunlop and Mr. Campinha continued a slight portion of the discussion regarding questions on how I&I affects this project, and time limits established for the testing.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

1. Town Charter

2. Sea St. -

3. Sump pumps – MS4 possibly to have Sump Pumps tie into storm water. A grant is being searched for to explore that possibility.

4. Stone Path –

5. Houses not connected to Town Sewer – 1 more home connected

7. EDU Rates – Discussion shifted to Mr. Tropeano taking the problem to the Board of Selectman for their assistance with fixing the issue.

8. COVID-19 Business Relief- Commissioner Slavin brought forth the only idea from the Board, stating she thought of if any business was forced to close by law; they could be charged one EDU. Commissioner Slavin said if the business had a choice to open and chose not to, they will not be eligible for the relief.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

November 12, 2020 6:30 p.m. Rm. 320

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned 8:08 P.M
Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins
Department Assistant

Attest: 

Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed 12/11/2020

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____