

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: November 12, 2020
Date of Transcription: November 19, 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

Donna M. Bronk
Sewer Commissioners Absent: Peter G. Dunlop
Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent
Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

SEWER BUSINESS

1. Abatements

I. Attleboro Building- Nephi Rd

The Board of sewer Commissioners reviewed an abatement application for Nephi Road for a total of \$626.00, with documentation showing the water to the property has been off since 2016.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the abatement for Nephi Road. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

II. 6 Frank's Way

The Board reviewed another abatement application for 6 Frank's Way for \$313.00, however the abatement was denied due to the 30-day application window has closed, and the water has not been shut off for one (1) year as the policy states.

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

VOTE: 4-0-0

III. 411 Main Street

An abatement from 411 Main Street was received for \$1,878.00 because four washing machines were taken offline and due to clerical error the abatement was not previously processed.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the abatement for \$1,878.00 and Commissioner White seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

IV. 5 Grant Street

The Board of Sewer Commissioner received an abatement for \$313.00, which was approved due to the water being shut off for over one (1) year, as policy requires.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the abatement for 5 Grant Street. Commissioner White seconded.

2. Woodland Cove Plans

The Woodland Cove Project is being looked at for 32,030 gallons including the community building, based on the suggestions presented by Woodland Cove. The benchmark used was 2 gallons per day, per seat in the community building, resulting in 350 gallons per day. Commissioner Slavin asked about a time frame, and her question was answered by superintendent, Guy Campinha. He stated he would be meeting with the Woodland Cove group November 13, 2020 as well as the fact the construction phase is estimated to begin sometime in April 2021. Mr. Campinha also stated Woodland Cove is struggling with removing tenants from the motel and they would like to relocate the tie-in to sewer further up Route 6 & 28. Mr. Campinha said he does not believe they should be allowed to tie in elsewhere because the tie-in at the motel is already theirs, but if they cannot get the tenants out the issue will **not** become the responsibility of the Board of

Sewer Commissioners or the Water Pollution Control Facility. Out of the four board members present, three agreed that the issue will not be transferred to anyone other than Woodland Cove. Commissioner Bronk reminded the Board of Sewer Commissioners the projects is a 40B project. Mr. Campinha explained to Commissioner Bronk nothing is being disapproved, and there is no plan in place. Phase 1 alone calls for the motel to be destroyed and use the lateral already present to build.

Mr. Campinha did comment that although he does understand it can be difficult to evict people, however he does not know if changing the entire project is justified. Commissioner White commented that by changing the project entirely it would affect other Boards in the Town of Wareham as well. Commissioner Slavin asked when Phase 1 will “first flush the toilet” and Mr. Campinha responded with one (1) year after the start date is when the first flush can be expected. Commissioner Slavin wanted Mr. Campinha to find out when Phase 2 and Phase 3 will be started, but he informed her that the beginning of Phase 2 would begin in the middle of or towards the end of Phase 1. Commissioner Bronk thinks the project is “hinging” on COVID-19 and the laws regarding evicting people, but thinks it may be a good thing for the Board to sit on extra time to solve more issues with flow and capacity.

3. Unanticipated Items

- I. Chairman Giberti met with the Town Counsel, Attorney Richard Bowen on November 12, 2020 regarding a usage policy. Town Counsel said the policy is “okay as it stands: but long term it would be more stable with a regulation in place. There are certain procedures that are necessary to establish a regulation, however Chairman Giberti said it will need to be researched and looked into to find out specifically what is needed and involved in the process. Superintended, Mr. Campinha asked what usage policy the Chairman is speaking of. Chairman Giberti explained the Allocation-Usage Policy (RE: Policy 26. Effective 6/4/2020 VOTE 5-0-0. Policy States: Gallons for a project can be allocated for one (1) year. Failure to complete the project in one (1) year will result in loss of the gallons. Projects done in phases will be viewed on a phase-by-phase basis. It is the applicants responsibility to manage the project completion in a timely manner and properly manage the time-frame given).

Commissioner White asked what the process is for creating a regulation. Chairman Giberti reminded Commissioner White that information still needs to be researched, but there is a few steps the Board needs to complete in order to begin. Chairman Giberti also said by creating a regulation it will translate into the legality of rescinding the motions of the allocations. He also said that the Town Counsel suggested Mr. Campinha meets with Jim Cain from AD Makepeace to discuss allocated gallons. Mr. Campinha said 60,000 gallons are in-fact Jim Cain’s and it is currently being used in the Rosebrook area and there is still one more building to go. However, if the building is started they [AD Makepeace] is well within their 60,000 gallons for allocation. Mr. Campinha

mentioned the Board of Selectman saying there can be no time restriction put on the project, but he can meet with Mr. Cain to get more information regarding what exactly is being planned. The discussion continued for a few moments longer in reference to AD Makepeace and the gallons allocated.

- II. Commissioner Slavin spoke on her trip to the Water Pollution Control Facility and the two (2) sandpits for the new equalization basins (EQ Basins). She said she also observed the basins being empty and was surprised there will complaints about odor. Mr. Campinha responded that he spoke with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the odor complains and to “chalk it off”. This is because many of the complaints come from the west however, the fact of low tide from the west is from the river, is usually neglected. Mr. Campinha said the basins are being watched although they have been empty for a couple of weeks.

4. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Campinha told the Board of Sewer Commissioners that he had also spoke with the Town Counsel, Rich Bowen about possibly restricting bedrooms when a development or extension is done. This will ensure the WPCF has the authority to do that. Mr. Bowen said it is possible to do that however, a policy will need to be written, followed by a provision. The example of a provision Mr. Campinha provided was if a home is two (2) bedrooms and sewer is then connected, the limit is now three (3) bedrooms. This is because some homes in smaller neighborhoods have gone from two (2) bedrooms to seven (7) bedrooms, and this flow is unaccounted for. Mr. Campinha said the building department will give the homeowner or whomever looking to expand, a permit with no restrictions on bedrooms, and this contributes to the allocation and capacity issues. “Capacity is capacity and when we delegate capacity its based upon the existing [building/lot] at the time of design. Mr. Campinha emphasized the WPCF has the right to restrict that [number of bedrooms]. He told the Board of Sewer Commissioners a discussion about a policy and regulation would be beneficial. The restriction will hopefully end “mega-mansions” that have been becoming more frequent, as well as please the DEP with knowing the WPCF is trying to better allocate flow and manage capacity. This discussion continued between the Sewer Commissioners.

Mr. Campinha commented on the equalization basins and the start of the project behind the denitrification filters. Mr. Campinha said to the right of the existing beds there is sand being moved and taken out to finish the basins on the other side. Mr. Campinha praised the company doing the work, stating they are “really steady with their work and they’re doing a great job.”

Mr. Campinha informed the Board that the Sea Street and Smith Ave projects were finished completely, and the final steps are just filling and wrapping all the materials up. He

said the projects went off with a couple of glitches, but they were easy to overcome and the project went very well overall.

The “tremendous root-ball” was removed from one of the sewer lines through the manhole. Mr. Campinha said in the summer, the tree roots need a drink and it is easily accessed at the nearest sewer pipe. The roots just need to keep attacking the line until they force their way in. He also reminded the Board that **free root-kill** is available at the WPCF, but people are not coming to use it. Mr. Campinha said it is going to become a major problem, and septic systems are already beginning to see the issue as well.

Next, he discussed the WPCF and their COVID-19 safety. He explained everyone is wearing masks, and shields when needed. He then moved on to discuss the two (2) new staff members at the Water Pollution Control Facility. The new maintenance manager is “very good at what he does” and has years of experience. He also spoke about the new lab technician that has a degree in biology and immaculate attention to detail. Mr. Campinha said November 29, 2020 a new laborer is also starting, and touched on the employee that left would like to return to the WPCF.

The next thing Mr. Campinha discussed was permit season. He explained permit season ended October 31, therefore it is just reporting and in the time being the WPCF is trying to get as much maintenance as possible done. He said he also had someone come to the WPCF and do phosphorus studies, which determined new material is out. Mr. Campinha said he is worried about aluminum because a lot of aluminum was discharged into the river because of the phosphate issue. He also commented that new options are being looked at without aluminum, because the state and federal government would like to put restrictions on the amount of aluminum being dumped into the river. He said the WPCF is also working with the engineering company, GHD for better odor control and new idea. One option is possibly a cover for the basin.

The last thing Mr. Campinha touched on was the groundwater discharge. He said different areas are being looked at and it will have to be expanded, but quite expensive and almost prohibited. The focus and the best idea is looking to expand the flow into the river, however the canal project is not stopped. The Kleinfelder contract is signed (See Oct. 22, 2020 meeting minutes); the WPCF is just exploring options for the discharge, while the outfall is being moved to the canal. He said that the Minot Forest School still needs to be discussed for when the school does go back online. Mr. Campinha said the pump station is going to become an issue, as it will only service one business, although it is owned by the school. The Water Pollution Control Facility will bring Town Counsel in to discuss the interesting scenario because telling a business they need to maintain the pump station.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

- A. Town Charter-
- B. Sea St. –
- C. Sump pumps –
- D. Stone Path – Waiting on Industrial Permit, numbers for TSS (total suspended solids) and BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), along with their sampling. Mr. Campinha told the Board of Sewer Commissioner that Stone Path has known what information is required to be submitted however, they still refuse to send their paperwork back. Commissioner White asked if it is possible to undertake the loading question and bill them, but still ensure the proper notice to avoid any legal discrepancies. Mr. Campinha and Commissioner White continued discussing billing.
- E. Houses not connected to Town Sewer – The Board reviewed a list of homes connected since 2019, and Commissioner Slavin requested an updated version of homes not connected.
- F. EDU Rates – Nothing from the selectman has been heard yet, although they have had between two (2) and three (3) meetings. The Board of Sewer Commissioners is looking for the readings on timely manner, including the base rate, usage rate, and rate for overage.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

December 10, 2020 6:30 p.m. Zoom

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:29 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 _____