

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2022
Date of Transcription: April 25, 2022
Transcribed by: Christiana Robbins

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Giberti called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Sewer Commissioners Absent:

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes for approval.

SEWER BUSINESS

1. Budget and Sewer Bill Increase Discussion

Director Campinha passed out a Budget Graph for the Board to review and discuss. Chairman Giberti asked if payroll was included in the 'Outside Contractors' line. Mr. Campinha explained payroll is funded for 18 staff, but there is only 10 staff at the Wareham Water Pollution Control (WPCF). He further explained outside contractors are completely expended and utilized to check stations, help on the weekends, and more, but this does not impact payroll. Mr. Campinha continued and said rate increases help to cover unknown costs and prices for WPCF necessities such as electricity and sludge disposal are skyrocketing. The Board continued looking at the Budget Graph while Mr. Campinha further discussed payroll and outside contractors. One point he brought up regarding payroll is with the WPCF being short staffed there is a lot of over-time and this also affects payroll. Mr. Campinha passed out another graph relating to the WPCF budget and explained the difficulty of managing the budget to the last cent, due to shipping and

other costs being completely unpredictable, such as sludge disposal and the difficulty to find a place to dispose of the sludge.

Director Campinha continued explaining how low sewer rates and the inflation with wastewater products, it is nearly impossible to come up with an adequate amount of money. This means the money to fix, construct, and maintain the sewer lines along with many more duties, is borrowed. A 10% sewer rate increase is not enough to continue to support the WPCF and its budget. Commissioner White suggested a 15% raise for sewer bills to help cover costs. Mr. Campinha and Commissioner Slavin discussed payments for borrowing money, the debt, and the budget. Mr. Campinha said the debt principle interest per year is \$3,045,273.00 and it includes projects from the last 15 years. The Board of Sewer Commissioners then reviewed the debt sheet for principle interest payments, borrowing money, and debt services.

Mr. Campinha explained he met with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and they were appalled to hear how the WPCF is still functioning with the incredibly low sewer rates. He also explained how delays will lead to deterioration and a much more costly fix and the effects become extreme for the sewer system. For example the Narrow's Pump Station Rehab is now a complete replacement. The Board then discussed Retained Earnings, Reserved Funds, and bills.

Commissioner Slavin asked when the 15% rate increase would go into effect, and she also asked if 7.5% into the next two (2) billing cycles. Commissioner Brank agreed with the 15% but only at the next billing cycle. Mr. Campinha suggested monthly sewer bills from the water department based off water usage. Chairman Giberti clarified what the 15% proposal being spoken of is. Commissioner White and Commissioner Dunlop shared their opinions regarding the rate increase. Commissioner Dunlop would like 5% increase every year until the 15% is reached. Chairman Giberti noted there are two (2) proposals, one for 15% increase and another for 7.5% increase into the next two (2) billing cycles. Commissioner Bronk proposed and agrees with 15% starting July 1, 2022. Chairman Giberti said the increase would have to go into effect August 1, 2022.

MOTION: The Board came to a unanimous decision a 15% Sewer Rate increase will go into effect on August 1, 2022.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Moratorium Discussion

Director Campinha brought up a moratorium due to the WPCF flow is roughly 1.9 million to 1.4 million, not including the 246,000 committed gallons, not including 500,000 committed gallons to AD Make Peace. He noted there are several businesses that have increased flow and there was no notification to the WPCF of any expansions. Mr. Campinha also commented on the "bedrooms" being rented out, which in actuality are apartments. The pump stations are seeing the effects from the increasing

flow and expansions. The Board discussed Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's) and if it would be possible to increase them, working with the Water Departments for water usage/ Water Trends, as well as asking questions regarding the moratorium, EQ Basins, and the WPCF Capacity. The Board also reviewed approved projects, capacity, project locations, and the increasing flow while discussing the topics listed previously. Commissioner Slavin asked if the moratorium is reinstituted, if there will be a way to give people a rough estimate on when their project may be started. Mr. Campinha said he is unsure and may have to work with the engineers on the projects to further see if the project is a good idea anyways. Commissioner Dunlop asked if the moratorium will only affect new projects, and Mr. Campinha explained it would have to be reviewed. Commissioner Bronk shared her opinions relating to the "WPCF crisis Situation" and how she believes the WPCF can run efficiently. Commissioner Slavin asked if coordinating with the building department for copies of extensions, new projects, and more. Mr. Campinha and Commissioner Slavin discussed the importance of the WPCF seeing the projects, approving the projects, building permits, and WPCF signing off on projects.

3. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Campinha did not have a Superintendent Report to deliver at the January 20, 2022 meeting.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Town Administrator and Building Commissioner Meeting-** Chairman Giberti stated he would like to see if the Town Administrator and Building Commissioner would like to get more involved in the WPCF Signing off issue.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

January 27, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wareham Multi Service Center Room 320. 48 Marion Road Wareham, MA

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned 11:37am

Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins

Department Assistant

Attest: SSS *approved vote 4-0-0*

Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed '2/8/22

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____