

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

Date of Meeting: January 26, 2023  
 Date of Transcription: March 18, 2023  
 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  
 Peter G. Dunlop  
 Sandra L. Slavin  
 Donna M. Bronk  
 Malcolm R. White

Sewer Commissioners Absent:

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent  
 Bob Drake, BETA

### **3. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Slavin motioned to accept the October 27, 2022, December 8, 2022 and January 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

**VOTE: 5-0-0**

## **SEWER BUSINESS**

### **1. Swifts Beach Meeting Questions**

Chairman Giberti and Commissioner Dunlop read the questions and answers to the following questions that were submitted via Email by Swifts Beach Residents with questions regarding the Low Pressure System project.

1. Does Contract No. 2022-001 cover the entire project approved by Article 15 of the Annual Spring Town Meeting held on April 25, 2022 or is Contract No. 2022-001 the first of a few phases?
  - A. This particular contract covers the job being done and it does not cover any other phases.

2. What authority does the Town have to require residents to pay for the electricity of town-owned grinder pumps?
  - A. These grinder pumps will not be owned by the town, they'll be owned by the homeowner. We are installing the grinder pumps, buying the grinder pumps and no further.
3. For the grinder pumps being installed on private property, does the Town plan to obtain easements or take the land by eminent domain? When will there be a Town vote on either the easements or takings?
  - A. Pumps are not being installed on private property at least at this particular point as far as we know if it has, it will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
4. Does the Town plan to pass a "Grinder Pump Bylaw" laying out the residents' and Town's responsibilities instead of just a policy that can be changed at the whim of the Sewer Commission?
  - A. At this present time it will be a policy.
5. Does the Town plan to hire a consultant to perform the maintenance for the grinder pumps?
  - A. No.
6. When will construction for Contract No. 2022-001 begin?
  - A. In the Spring.
7. A lot of the homes affected by Contract No. 2022-001 are summer rental properties. Has the Town considered how a grinder pumps and renters will co-exist? There are a lot more rules that come with a grinder pump than a typical sewer line that most renters are used to.
  - A. Compliance will be the responsibility of the landlord.
8. How is the Town paying for Contract No. 2022-001?
  - A. Borrowing.
9. Have any grants been obtained to pay for Contract No. 2022-001?
  - A. As far as we know, right now there are no grants available, but we are looking into the lowest interest funding
10. Why didn't the Town of Wareham officially notify the residents of Swift's Beach about this proposed project prior to the spring 2022 Town Meeting?
  - a. It was in the Town Meeting Warrant [and] was also discussed at sewer meetings. We did everything that was required by law.
11. What would the scope of work be to replace the collapsed section of sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av?
  - a. We would have to replace the entire length of Wankinquoah ave at an approximate cost of \$6 Million.
12. Have any requests for proposals/bids been requested, or proposals/bids been submitted by contractors, to replace the collapsed section of sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av?
  - a. No.

13. Why was this type of repair (installing grinder pumps at each property) selected as opposed to replacing the collapsed section of sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av?
  - a. Due to the degradation of the asbestos cement pipe, State and EPA require correction and this was the least expensive.
14. Would it be possible to install a pump several feet below ground on Wankinquoah Av that would pump wastewater to the closet manhole? This solution (as suggested at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting) would have significant cost savings to the Town.
  - a. That couldn't be done as it is not an endorsed or approved method, nor will any certified engineer sign off on it.
15. Could you please make available to the public the video footage of the collapsed sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av? It is our understanding that this video has been requested for several months.
  - a. It will/is posted on the Town of Wareham Website. If it is not already available it will be made available within the next few days.
16. Are there any other infiltrations into the sewer system in the Swift's Beach neighborhood? If so, do these infiltrations come from lateral connections?
  - a. All of Swifts Beach is Compromised.
17. What kind of maintenance has the Town done over the years on the collapsed sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av in order to avoid the current situation?
  - a. There has been routine camera inspections and that inspection is done to identify the problems and we found the problem.
18. Has the Town undertaken any legal action to hold accountable the contractor who installed the failed lining on the collapsed sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av?
  - a. Having the lining failed [was] due to an illegal pump charge during installation of the lining, sump pumps which are illegal throughout the Town, at least into the sewer system.
19. Why did the Town allow the lining contractor to line a collapsed sewer system?
  - a. Because it was determined it could be lined.
20. Why wasn't the collapsed sewer system repaired prior to being lined?
  - a. It was, the line itself was corrected.
21. What are the qualifications for the contractor selected to make repairs to the collapsed sewer system on or around Wankinquoah Av?
  - a. They were approved contractors for the state.
22. When will the project start?
  - a. In the spring. The exact start date is to be determined and residents will be notified.
23. Has the Town received permission or easements to work on private property?
  - a. Any private property that we have to work on it will be determined on a case-by-case basis and they'll be dealt individually.

24. Will the Town assist homeowners to upgrade their electrical systems when required to operate the grinder pumps?
  - a. If there is assistance available. We don't have that answer yet.
25. How will the Town restore driveways that have been excavated in order to install the grinder pumps? Will the entire driveway need to be repaved?
  - a. At this point we are not expecting to excavate driveways. Chairman Giberti stated the driveways will be repaired if in fact we have to do that.
26. Does the Town intend to extend this project to other parts of Swift's Beach?
  - a. All through Swifts Beach.
27. Is Director Guy Campinha a Professional Engineer?
  - a. No.
28. Is there an estimate to repair the broken pipe on Wankinquoah instead of this huge undertaking?
  - a. It was a \$3 Million charge

**If you have any questions/comments/concerns about the project, please contact the Wareham Board of Sewer Commissioners at the following email: [SewerCommissioners@wareham.ma.us](mailto:SewerCommissioners@wareham.ma.us)**

## **2. Policy Reviews and Discussion**

The Board of Sewer Commissioners discussed the policies and numbers and where they can be found as well as explain why this discussion of policies is happening. Commissioner Slavin stated she wanted to review the policies before motioning to remove and void them. Mr. Campinha noted some policies allow him to give permits and he is currently in the middle of issuing permits, so how will that affect his work? Mr. Campinha stated he reviewed minutes from 2016 and 2017 where the current Board of Sewer Commissioners adopted policies specifically for the sewer. Chairman Giberti stated he will speak with the Town Attorney for more clarification. The Board had a discussion regarding the policies. One policy Mr. Campinha emphasized the importance of is the F.O.G Program (Fats, Oils, and Grease Program. Signs and Printable Information is on the Town of Wareham Website under Sewer Department and Sewer Documents). The discussion continued between the members regarding policies and grammar. One policy that was discussed in-depth was abatements and the criteria for an abatement. The grease policy discussion also held some information regarding the moratorium and the EPA permit for the WPCF. Mr. Campinha also stated the DEP wrote favorable regulations on F.O.G for the Town of Plymouth that has been adopted. There was a small discussion regarding trailer parks and the failing grinder pumps.

## **3. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan**

A short discussion regarding comprehensive wastewater management plan for towns around Wareham (Marion, Plymouth, Carver, Bourne). The discussion went into talk

about a decentralized plant in Shangri-La as well as taking care of the Kendrick Pump Station. There was also discussion about groundwater discharge

#### **4. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Mr. Campinha met with the EPA as well as the DEP to discuss expanding the discharge into the Agawam River. Mr. Campinha discussed specific parameters set in place by the EPA and DEP, in order to allow the WPCF to increase their discharge into the river. A meeting with GHD, DEP and EPA via ZOOM was conducted to further discuss more information. The meeting minutes will be available (State of Massachusetts Website or the GHD Company). The EPA and DEP are continuing to promote regulations to further protect the environment.
- B. Mr. Campinha stated the Vactor Truck was in Cromeset helping municipal maintenance for a few flooded streets and the issue will be solved tomorrow. MS4 is municipal maintenance; however, the sewer department is offering assistance.
- C. Most of onset is done with the camera on every line due to a new permit.
- D. Upper Cape is coming for a tour of the plant Feb. 3, 2023. Falmouth Elementary is also coming this year to walk around the river and talk about waste and the importance of the environment.
- E. Extended the date of completion for the filters due to electrical actuators and shipping delays.
- F. Sludge Disposal Site is down again. Figuring out where to bring the WPCF sludge and what to do with it, but working with the EPA. More talk on sludge and clarifiers.

#### **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)**

##### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **B. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

February 9, 2023 6:30 p.m. Wareham Multi Service Center Room 320. 48 Marion Road Wareham, MA

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE: 5-0-0**

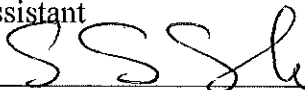
Meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

**Christiana Robbins**

Department Assistant

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



**Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk**

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

5/19/23

Date sent to the Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_