

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: June 20, 2019
Date of Transcription: July 02, 2019
Transcribed by: Colleen Malone

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Giberti called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Sewer Commissioners Present: James R. Giberti
Peter G. Dunlop
Sandra L. Slavin

Sewer Commissioners Absent: Malcom R. White
Donna M. Bronk

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Sewer Superintendent
Invited Guests Patrick Tropeano and Town Counsel Richard Bowen

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2019

Commissioner Dunlop was only member present for June 6, 2019 meeting. Approval tabled until next meeting.

4. SEWER BUSINESS

5. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1) **Bourne Billing:** Mr. Campinha wants the Boards approval to send out the past 12 months of billing to the Town of Bourne. Mr. Campinha advised that due to audits and conflict the bills were not sent out. Currently the Town Administrators of both Wareham and Bourne are negotiating the bills; however, Mr. Campinha feels that the bills should be sent before the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Slavin stated that the Board did not see the bills at the end of each

quarter and WPCF is retroactively billing the Town of Bourne for the past 12 months for usage.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motion to invoice the Town of Bourne for 4 quarters of usage totaling \$569,710.47. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

2) **Sea Street:** Mr. Campinha advised that the break was located in the pipe on Sea St. Mr. Campinha has a concern of the timing and if it should be held off until Fall. Commissioner Slavin questioned if the equipment has been moved off the beach. Mr. Campinha said yes the equipment is removed and all the manhole covers and pipes have been checked. The joints are bad and the one break in the line on Sea St. Commissioner Dunlop asked if there are any estimates on fixing it. Mr. Campinha advised that there are no estimates on fixing the break or joints yet. They do have an estimate on lining the pipes. Commissioner Dunlop states that waiting until Fall would be best. Mr. Campinha agrees and states that it would be better planning to wait until Fall he would be able to get everything lined up as well as check the elevation levels.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

- 1) **Sump pumps-** Discussion regarding damage to new lining by sump pumps from three residential homes at Swifts Beach. The cost was over \$70,000.00, Mr. Campinha will confirm the exact amount. Letters will be sent to these three homes owners to pay the cost to remove the damaged pipe and place new pipe. Mr. Tropeano will address this also in next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- 2) **Stone Path** - Study is almost done, the EDU will be increased by one.
- 3) **EDU Rates**
- 4) **Houses not connected to Town Sewer**—currently 86 houses not connected. Board wants to work with Board of Health to force connection because it is a public health concern.
Discussion took place on different options available for possible financial help, for example CEDA and Barnstable County Septic.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Commissioner Giberti introduces Selectman Patrick Tropeano and Town Counsel Richard Bowen.
- 2) Commissioner Giberti explains that they have been invited because the Board has a concern on what can action can be taken with houses that have sump pumps illegally hooked up to town sewer. Mr. Bowen wants to clarify his understand of

illegal connections and that WPCF can tell because of the levels of the basins. Mr. Bowen then points out the four main causes he sees from the illegal connections

- A. Unnecessary treatment
- B. Causing lagoons/basins to fill to the max
- C. Cost WPCF more
- D. Creates potential health problems and smells.

Commissioner Dunlop points out on a dry day and wet day that WPCF cannot say 100% increase comes from pumps because we still have I+I.

Mr. Bowen agrees that I+I is a contributor, but Mr. Campinha advises that 40% of WPCF issues are from sump pumps. This can be proven by the steadiness of the flow.

Mr. Bowen explains that the Town of Wareham By-Laws do clearly state that anything connected to the system needs to get approval from the Board and WPCF. With this being said the problem is finding out who is illegally connected. One way that Mr. Bowen advised is to do an Administrative Search. This would entail going to district court, filing an application and then the Clerk Magistrate could then make a decision if there is probable cause to search the house. This would be done on a case by case and a good reason would need to be provided.

Discussion takes place on smoke test

Commissioner Dunlop asks if WPCF could charge everyone a surcharge and then it could be waived once his or her system is inspected. Mr. Tropeano stated that once inspected and WPCF worker leaves, that the pump could be hooked back up.

Discussion on how the plant cannot handle the intake that is currently happening.

Commissioner Dunlop discusses that he wants options for people because there are innocent people who really have no idea where the water is going.

Mr. Campinha points out to Mr. Bowen that the EPA says they cannot allow the sump pumps hooked up to the system.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

July 18, 2019 6:30 p.m. - Rm 320

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Malone
Department Assistant

Attest: 
Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed 7/18/19

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____