

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

Date of Meeting: September 28, 2023  
Date of Transcription: December 4, 2023  
Transcribed by: Christiana Robbins

### **1. MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Pigeon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Chairman MacDonald Called the Bourne Sewer Commissioners Meeting to order at 6:54 pm.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Sewer Commissioners Present: Bernard Pigeon  
James R. Giberti  
Sandra L. Slavin  
Robert Scanlon JR

Sewer Commissioners Absent: Peter G. Dunlop

Also Present: Sara Greenburg, GHD, Engineer  
Bourne Sewer Commissioners-  
Jared MacDonald (Chairman)  
Melissa Ferretti (Vice-Chairman) VIA ZOOM  
Mary-Jane Mastrangelo (Clerk)  
Peter Meier (Commissioner)

## **SEWER BUSINESS**

### **1. GHD Presentation**

The Wareham and Bourne Board of Sewer Commissioners heard a presentation given by GHD Engineer Sara Greenburg relating to the head works and clarifiers upgrade. The presentation will be attached.

The head works and clarifiers project is a Warrant Article on the upcoming Wareham Fall Town Meeting. Last fall (2022) the design of the project was approved and the project is currently in design. The Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) receives wastewater to be treated. The wastewater is treated from the beginning where it comes in from the collection system to the end where it is discharged as clean water.

The first process wastewater sees when it comes to the WPCF is screens to remove any grit as well as other materials that get flushed such as kids' toys, rags, food scraps, and more. The head works facility is also, where septage haulers are pumping the contents of septic tanks from the town or surrounding towns. Stage two is the aeration

basins where the microbes and bugs treat the wastewater. Area three is the clarifiers. After the microbes have treated the wastewater, they (the microbes) fall to the bottom of the clarifier and that's called sludge. The clear water rises to the top of the clarifier, and from there will continue to area four of the process. Area four includes the denitrification filters (Sand Filters). The clear water will filter through the sand removing any of the nitrogen remaining. Nitrogen is removed to abide by the permit. Area five includes Ultraviolet light disinfection. Here the water is disinfected and discharged into area six, which is the Agawam River.

After the brief overview of the WPCF, Sara continued and spoke on the clarifiers. Most of the equipment at the facility is from the last major upgrade that occurred in 2005. The life expectancy of most equipment is around 20 years. The head works and clarifiers are both areas and processes that have equipment at that life expectancy and it is beginning to fail. Those pieces of equipment are critical for meeting the plant's permit plans. The WPCF has to meet treatment goals so the water can go back into the ecosystem. Failing equipment raises risks of permit issues and violations.

The head works area was explained and shown with pictures to get a better visual. With the head works facility not operating at its full capacity, more rags, grit, and other items are getting further into the wastewater process and causing issues with more equipment. The secondary clarifier is the second component is the project. The clarifiers themselves are too shallow and do not meet current design standards. Pictures were shown of the clarifiers and explained a little more. When failing equipment is mentioned, and the goal is to meet all permit parameters. The consequences of a failing facility can include environmental issues and contamination. Too much nutrients released into the environment will kill off the wildlife. Another consequence of failed equipment and not meeting the permit allows the Federal Government to make a note of that and issue a consent order that would be in place until the environmental contamination is cleaned, and there are often heavy fines and penalties associated with the consent order. Not only can the contamination take years to clean but once there is a consent order the facility will lose state funding.

A chart included in the presentation outlined the cost for what it would be to upgrade the WPCF to 2 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD), 3 MGD and 4 MGD. The current flow for the WPCF is 1.56 MGD. The project is being applied for funding through a state loan program which is 0-2% interest depending on the application approval. Wareham currently gets a 10% loan forgiveness principal (Grant money).

The discussion was opened up to questions for both of the Boards. Mary-Jane Mastrangelo asked questions regarding the 17.9% commitment Bourne has with Wareham. She asked questions relating to Bourne's Cost, and she discussed communication for this project as well. Marc Drainville whom was in the audience asked the Bourne Sewer Commissioners if there is an interest in having GHD come before the Board (Bourne) to discuss the project more. Chairman MacDonald stated he

thinks working in unison will be the best route. Small discussions regarding Bourne and a few other topics continued.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

3. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

October 12, 2023 at 6:30pm. 54 Marion Road Wareham, MA 02571. Room 320.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Slavin motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Giberti seconded.

**VOTE: 4-0-0**

The meeting adjourned 7:42 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

**Christiana Robbins**

Department Assistant

Attest: 

**Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk**

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

Date Signed 12/17/23

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