

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: November 18, 2021
Date of Transcription: February 1, 2022
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
Donna M. Bronk
Sandra L. Slavin

Sewer Commissioners Absent: Malcolm R. White
Peter G. Dunlop

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent
Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes for approval at this meeting.

SEWER BUSINESS

1. 55 Wychunas Ave

Chairman Giberti explained the abatement recommendation is to be denied due to the fact the abatement application was submitted after the deadline. Mr. Campinha mentioned that for clarification the abatement application information is located on the back of every sewer bill.

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to deny the abatement for 55 Wychunas Ave in the amount of \$323.00 per the superintendent recommendation. Commissioner Slavin seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-0

2. 6 Franks Way

Chairman Giberti flipped the abatement to Mr. Campinha because the decision has been back and forth. Mr. Campinha explained there is a letter saying the water has been shut off and the letter is “straightforward”. He continued and said the home is being rehabbed however the discrepancy has been reviewed before and his recommendation has always been denial. The Board discussed minor details that helped to make their decision of denial.

MOTION: Commissioner Bronk motioned to follow the recommendations of the superintendent and deny the abatement application for 6 Franks Way in the amount of \$699.01. Commissioner Slavin Seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Onset Ave Sewer Line Continuance Request

Mr. Campinha explained the gentleman whom created this request, buys distressed properties and rehabs them to be rented out, which puts rentals into the “pool”. Mr. Campinha continued and said the current home the gentleman would like to rehab has a failed septic and the lot will not allow for a new septic to fit comfortably. He stated the manhole in the street can be used, however the proposer will need to pay for it all. The proposer has already stated he would be willing to extend the consideration to others in that area. Mr. Campinha suggested letting the gentleman tie into the sewer, however if the VFW or any of his neighbors come forward, that should be a separate consideration by the Board of Sewer Commissioners. A short discussion about this project arose between Commissioner Slavin and Mr. Campinha, with Chairman Giberti adding minor points to the conversation.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the connection for the project. Commissioner Bronk seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

4. Revenue Chart

Mr. Campinha discussed a revenue chart created in the WPCF office to show the relationship between raising the sewer bills and the revenue it would bring in to fix the sewer systems, as well as be used for the funding of projects or to pay back debt. The board had a small side discussion about the Narrows Force Main project as well as the Town Meeting. The conversation switched gears and the Board began discussing the Narrows Force Main project in more depth as well as the bidding process and the expenses currently, as well as sewer bill increases. Mr. Campinha spoke on some

comparisons done, and stated sewer is a necessity and the increases must be considered because without it, everyone is in trouble.

5. Bourne Billing

Commissioner Slavin asked if there was a change in the billing regarding Mr. Foster, and Mr. Campinha explained the billing is submitted to Mr. Foster and he [Mr. Foster] submits the information to a company to factor the amount to be billed. Mr. Campinha said he would like to talk with Mr. Foster about possible monthly billing rather than twice a year. The Board of Sewer Commissioners discussed possible monthly billing. Chairman Giberti asked “Why cant you offer it where is could be it costs you this much a month, it costs you this much quarterly, it costs you this much semi-annually and it will cost you this much on an annual basis?” Mr. Campinha said he believes it may be more palatable to do it monthly.

Commissioner Slavin said if the Board is thinking about raising the rates it would be discussed in January, as well as talk about it with the rest of the Board present. Mr. Campinha said the January timeline gives him time to meet with engineers and get “hard numbers” and move forward. The Board of Sewer Commissioners spoke on reviewing the WPCF [Water Pollution Control Facility] budget before it is finalized.

6. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Conference- Mr. Campinha spoke on a conference he attended in New York at West Point where he met cadets and their instructors as well. While he was in New York there was a spill from a pump station, and it was estimated 40,000 gallons of untreated wastewater dumped into Horseshoe Pond. The reason for the overflow was grease blankets did not allow the floats to work. Mr. Campinha stated “The law says you [have to] clean your grease trap once every three (3) months. If you’re producing a ton of grease, three months isn’t often enough. We have to regroup... now do it monthly or do it every couple of weeks.” He also stated the WPCF will continue to try and accommodate the pump stations and reduce the grease so the treatment system can work properly. The WPCF also has a new Chemical Trine which allows chemicals to be put directly into the pump station to liquefy the grease. The Board discussed Pump Station conditions and spoke more on the spill.

B. Vacant Buildings not Being Billed- Mr. Campinha noted when Kendrick pump station had a backup, a business called due to the damages. When he went into the building he saw the business had grown in the last seven (7) years to multiple buildings, and the sewer department has no record of that. This becomes an issue because they are not billed the proper amount due to the lack of communication. Mr. Campinha said he is going to bring back the industrial pre-treatment form. He noted it has happened in the Industrial Park, and there is no way for him to follow the changes throughout the town, so he stated he needs to “do more investigating”. The Sewer Commissioners spoke on inflow and infiltration (I&I) as well.

- C. **WPCF SCADA**- Director Campinha mentioned the Water pollution control's SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) was down, and it is pricy to fix but it is mandatory to have and use. SCADA is throughout the plant and they each run different buildings. In wastewater electronics when things are new in a plant, it isn't new anymore. The WPCF needs ratification of the plant, since there is a lot of 1972 original equipment.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)**

- A. **Sump pumps** – Looking at having a public meeting, and also looking to utilize the old abandoned sewer pipes. The sump pumps would be tied into this line, it will become storm water and it will have filtration to meet the standards.
- B. **Houses not connected to Town Sewer – No Update**
- C. **Bourne Meeting**- Russ Kleekamp, GHD Engineer attended the Bourne Meeting regarding the Outfall pipe, and spoke on his interpretations only about the meeting, relating to things such as flyers, information passed out, and his thoughts. This conversation continued for several moments.
- D. **Bourne Billing**- The new IMA mentions one fee for Bourne which would be a flat fee. The WPCF sent Bourne a letter regarding the projects and the portion they will pay.
- E. **Sink Hole**- The sinkhole between Speedway and Cumberland Farms has been fixed for a price of \$25,000.00. The Board discussed Main Street's sinkholes.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

December 2, 2021 6:30 p.m. Wareham Multi Service Center Room 320. 48 Marion Road Wareham, MA

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VOTE: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:55 P.M

Respectfully submitted,

Christiana Robbins

Department Assistant

Attest: _____



Sandra L. Slavin, Clerk

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date Signed 4/20/22

Date sent to the Town Clerk _____