

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: December 2, 2021
Date of Transcription: February 7, 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
Sandra L. Slavin
Peter G. Dunlop

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

Also Present: Guy Campinha, Super Intendent

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes for approval at this meeting.

SEWER BUSINESS

1. Multi-State Electric Contract

Mr. Campinha explained this contract must be redone after three (3) years and it is \$105 per hour for the electrician.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to accept the Multi-State Electric contract. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Norell Fire Alarm System

Chairman Giberti introduced the contract and Mr. Campinha explained this contract is to service the [fire] equipment. The contract speaks specifically to overhauling the system and bringing the outside system in compliance with the new state codes mandated by the

fire departments. The Board spoke on what the funding for this project is, or if it is included in the budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to sign the Norell contract for \$59,000, for an upgrade to the fire alarm systems at the plant. Commissioner Dunlop Seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Weston and Sampson – SCADA

Mr. Campinha explained the parts that are in the computers are around \$40,000 to \$50,000, and SCADA keeps going down consistently, which is very problematic. The Sewer Commissioners spoke on capital items for a few moments.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the SCADA repair contract with Weston and Sampson for \$200,000. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

4. Bourne Capital Costs

The Board reviewed Bourne's Cost for the WPCF upgrades.

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the billing of the Town of Bourne for \$188,477.53. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the billing of the Town of Bourne for \$40,375.11. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

The Board of Sewer Commissioners spoke more on the Bourne IMA as well as billing Bourne

MOTION: Commissioner Slavin motioned to approve the billing of the Town of Bourne for \$420,250.00. Commissioner Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: 3-0-0

5. SEWER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Department Expense Budget-** Mr. Campinha explained the handout draft of the department expense budget is not to be made public due to it being a work in progress. The handout is to allow to Sewer Commissioners to have a concept of “where we are and where were going to be going.” The handout also allows the Board to view expenses as well as obligations such as debt. The sewer bills are considered the revenues as well as the money from treating grease and septage. A conversation on budget information, debt. Increases, and interest continued.
- B. Project Updates-** The projects are still going and they seem to be on time. One “glitch” is the WPCF cannot get six (6) inch and eight (8) inch ductile iron elbows. The piping and plumbing have to use elbows, so it has come to a standstill until the elbows are acquired.
- i. Mr. Campinha urged the Sewer Commissioners to visit the WPCF because all the tanks and buildings have plumbing and once it is covered, the piping will not be seen again. The Board and Mr. Campinha discussed some of the Wastewater material as well as the contents inside the pipes and their effect.
- C. BioFilter Bid-** Director Campinha explained the BioFilter original plans called for Activated Carbon, which the lead-time is months and months away. If the structure is put in and the Activated Carbon becomes odorous, there is no way to change it. Mr. Campinha is looking for media that is made in America and has a longer shelf life as well.
- D. Local Limits-** The local limits is completed and standards can be set regarding a product meeting certain standards. If the product does not meet the standards a surcharge may be applied, or the product may have to meet the standards before being discharged into the sewer system. The standards are yet to be set.
- E. Checklist Work With Board of Health-** Mr. Campinha is trying to work with the Board of Health to add to the permit for businesses and have pumping records and other important sewer system information. The business would need to validate the supplied information.
- F. Plant Upgrades-** Superintendent Campinha mentioned replacing the head works building is 6 million dollars and he does not want to spend a lot of money but he needs to spend money to make it operational. The costs for fixing head works as well as clarifiers is an estimated 17 million. He also spoke on the state money to be divided up and the Town of Wareham will decide what percent will be directed towards sewer.
- G. Bamboo Toilet Paper-** Mr. Campinha emphasized bamboo toilet paper is fibrous and nothing fibrous is good for the sewer system. Baby wipes, rags, diapers, and anything other than organic material is not be put into the sewer system. One example is 13th Street. The pump station is constantly being tripped out due to the pump binding. Mr. Campinha said he does not believe this is vindictive or malice

intent, just a lack of accountability and it may be more convenient to flush the items rather than find proper disposal. Chairman Giberti stated “At this point we don’t have a way to single out those individuals that are the main culprits and penalize them directly so the alternative is an across the board rate increase...” Mr.

Campinha said the procurement laws are trying to protect the consumer but what we may save today could be an astronomical payment down the road.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS (Unanticipated Items)

A. Sump pumps – No Change

B. EDU Billing- Billing is regulated, which means the prices must be justifiable.

Commissioner Slavin suggested a three (3) percent increase plus what the cost of removing rags from the sewer system. Mr. Campinha said the rates have not gone up substantially in the last 12 years and he is doing everything possible to prevent raising the rates, but its time to raise them.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Spring Town Meeting-** Commissioner Slavin mentioned the Spring Town Meeting and the Board will need to discuss what will be submitted for articles as well as capital expenditures.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

December 16, 2021 6:30 p.m. Wareham Multi Service Center Room 320. 48 Marion Road Wareham, MA

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned 7:37 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 _____