

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023

Call to Order

As senior presiding member, Dr. Shilts called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Members Present

Kirk Shilts and Clark Frazier

Chairman Stephen Harold was absent.

Staff Present

Liz Welch, DPW Office Manager; Steve Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Matthew Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent and J.R. Frey, Town Engineer

Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2022; October 27, 2022; November 10, 2022 & December 15, 2022

Ms. Welch explained that the minutes from December 15, 2022 have not been completed. Dr. Shilts explained minor edits for both the September 29, 2022 minutes as well as the October 27, 2022 minutes.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2022 as amended; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2022 as amended; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2022 as drafted; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Sewer Articles for Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Frazier believes there should be two Articles for 2023 Town Meeting, one for completing the work to the Rt. 3A gravity main that was approved at the 2018 Town Meeting. The second Article would be for the resiliency project. Dr. Shilts wants to finish the Rt. 3A gravity main capital project already approved by Town Meeting and talk about the resiliency study for the pumping stations including flood barriers.

Dr. Shilts stated that Superintendent Sylvester had previously said that additional funding will be needed to complete the Rt. 3A gravity main to Stoddard's Neck. Mr. Cahill agrees as he does foresee additional funding due to how the market has gone over the course of the project.

Mr. Frazier would like to know what the costs would be now. Mr. Cahill will look into what we need for funding for the remainder of the gravity main project and for completing the resiliency portion of the Rt. 3A force main study.

Vote: Mr. Clark moved to prepare a 2023 Warrant Article for the rehabilitation and relocation of the Rt. 3A gravity main from Bradley Woods to Stoddard's Neck as identified in the 2018 Town Meeting Article #28 including the extension of the Beal's Cove force main for a cost of up to \$900,000, the detailed costs to be identified by staff; seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Dr. Shilts discussed the potential second Warrant Article regarding the force main section of Rt. 3A and the Broad Cove pump station resiliency study. He said he hadn't seen anything until ½ hour ago regarding the study and the results. He said he is not prepared to discuss its details at this meeting and not prepared to vote.

Sewer Abatements

Ms. Welch reviewed with the Commission the sewer bill abatement request from 3 Edgar Walker Court for \$815.48; 194 North Street for \$239.02; 24 Lincoln Street for 210.90; 1 Jordan Way for \$421.80; 3 Isaac Sprague Drive for \$435.89; 31 Franklin Rodgers Road for \$1,026.38; 23 Isaac Sprague Drive for \$703; 12 Ringbolt Road for \$2,207.42; 31 Ship Street for \$843.60; 20 Mann Street for \$196.85; 16 Daley Road for \$463.98; 21 Merrill Street for \$56.24; 4 Holly Street for \$56.24; and 273 Rockland Street for \$1,560.66. She additionally explained why these abatements should be considered.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted sewer abatements for 3 Edgar Walker Court for \$815.48; 194 North Street for \$239.02; 24 Lincoln Street for 210.90; 1 Jordan Way for \$421.80; 3 Isaac Sprague Drive for \$435.89; 31 Franklin Rodgers Road for \$1,026.38; 23 Isaac Sprague Drive for \$703; 12 Ringbolt Road for \$2,207.42; 31 Ship Street for \$843.60; 20 Mann Street for \$196.85; 16 Daley Road for \$463.98; 21 Merrill Street for \$56.24; 4 Holly Street for \$56.24; and 273 Rockland Street for \$1,560.66; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Staff Reports

Mr. Frazier wanted to know what kind of failure to the Rt. 3A force main and how many in the past. Mr. Dempsey explained on average about every two years there has been a force main break. They typically happen at joints in the pipe. The force main is at the end of its useful life. He said one of the things we did was to reroute the sewer main from the Bradley Woods station which alleviated the water hammer when the pumps from two different pump stations came on at the same time. He said there hasn't had a force main break in over two years although every joint in the pipe is compromised at this point.

Mr. Clark explained that we need something in writing for the Town Meeting and suggested we ask our contracted consultants Weston & Sampson.

Mr. Dempsey explained that we just had a full moon king tide and the West Corner pump station flooded. He said he raised an access cover and will line and epoxy inside to mitigate so it doesn't happen again. He said the pump stations that are vulnerable to flooding are on a list from Weston & Sampson. Need to have a meeting to get these.

Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:17a.m.; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
DPW/Sewer Office Manager

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda 1/12/23*
- *Draft meeting minutes of 9/29/22, 10/27/22 & 11/10/22*
- *Abatement list*
- *Emails from Weston & Sampson RE: Rt. 3A Force Main/Resiliency study, March and June 2022*