

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

Call to Order

Mr. Harold called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Members Present

Stephen Harold, chair; Kirk Shilts and Clark Frazier

Staff Present

Liz Welch, DPW Office Manager; J.R. Frey, Town Engineer; Matt Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor and Pat Cotton (Weston & Sampson), Consultant Engineer

Other Town Officials

Brian Stack, Hingham Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2023 & January 19, 2023

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the January 12, 2023 minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Vote: Mr. Frazier moved to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes as drafted; seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

2023 Town Meeting Sewer Warrant Article

Mr. Cotton explained that there are three components that need to be addressed, the Broad Cove pump station, the Rt. 3A force main that discharges at Shipyard Drive and the Rt. 3A gravity line which ultimately discharges at the Stoddard's Neck MWRA pump station. He said a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant funded the investigation for the Broad Cove pump station and allowed for the full design of the Rt. 3A force main. He said he has revised his recommendations for the Rt. 3A gravity sewer main to now include upgrading it along its entirety from 18" to 24". He said this new recommendation has not been designed yet nor has the realignment of the gravity main near Stoddard's Neck which is pending based on securing an easement on state DCR property.

Mr. Cotton did not have all costs available today but can get them to the Commission for a future meeting. Mr. Cahill said would likely be in the neighborhood of \$3-4million.

The discussion ensued with questions about different aspects of the project.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to ask staff and our Consultant Engineer to provide a report with the potential cost and schedule to replace the Rt. 3A gravity main from manhole #16 to manhole #1 from 18 to 24 inches for discussion at our next meeting; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Broad Cove Pump Station Emergency

Mr. Dempsey explained that they had to pull the impellor one of two functioning pumps as something compromised it beyond repair. He said staff researched getting just a new impellor or a pump/impellor combination. They were unable to find a new impellor; and purchasing a new pump was significantly faster to obtain. He said we have be running off of one pump which is challenging. He said the compromised impellor was best repaired and put back into operation. He said the cost estimate for the new pump is around \$150,000.

Mr. Dempsey said the pump station was designed for three pumps but that one pump has not been operational for many years.

Mr. Frazier said the Hingham Select Board two weeks ago voted to purchase a new pump and its installation for \$300,000.

Resiliency Planning

Dr. Shilts explained that the Broad Cove pump station/ Rt. 3A force main resiliency study from our Consultant Engineers had information on how to harden this pump station. He would like to see the financial costs added to the report. He said this could be a template for looking at all of our pump stations.

Vote: Mr. Frazier moved to create a Resiliency Plan for all pump stations; seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Meeting Scheduling

Mr. Frazier asked that whenever staff is meeting with another town board about sewer issues, the Commission should be able to attend the meeting and suggested posting these meetings in case more than one Commissioner would like to attend.

Customer Service Notices

Dr. Shilts discussed the draft public notices about when privately-owned sewer systems connected to the town's sewer system experience problems. He said the three notices cover the possible scenarios. He would like to approve them for staff's use so the public knows what the state laws are and their options.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to provide staff with three customer service notifications relevant to Infiltration & Inflow violations, private sewer system malfunction and private sewer system failure; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier

members opposed: none

Sewer Abatements

Ms. Welch reviewed with the Commission sewer bill abatement requests for 117 Stayner Drive for \$134.32; 6 Blackberry Lane for \$5497.46; 5 Bayberry Lane for \$478.04; 171 Main Street for \$5,567.76; 12 Baker Hill Drive for \$815.48; 30 Bradley Hill Road for \$520.22; and 60 Bel Air Road for \$239.02. She additionally explained why these abatements should be considered.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted sewer abatements for 117 Stayner Drive for \$134.32; 6 Blackberry Lane for \$5497.46; 5 Bayberry Lane for \$478.04; 171 Main Street for \$5,567.76; 12 Baker Hill Drive for \$815.48; 30 Bradley Hill Road for \$520.22 and 60 Bel Air Road for \$239.02; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):
members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier
members opposed: none

Discussion:

Private Sewer System Policy

Dr. Shilts would like to have our Consultant Engineers back at another meeting to discuss Private Sewer Systems. He said the Commission should develop questions and provide them in advance.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to postpone the Private Sewer System Policy discussion for a future meeting; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):
members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier
members opposed: none

Scheduling:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Vote: Mr. Harold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m.; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):
members in favor: Harold, Shilts and Frazier
members opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
DPW/Sewer Office Manager

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda 2/16/23*
- *Draft minutes of 1/12/23 & 1/19/23*
- *Draft Private Sewer System Policy Outline*
- *Sewer Inflow-Infiltration Letter (First notice)*
- *Sewer Private System Malfunction Letter (First Notice)*
- *Sewer Private System Failure Letter (First notice)*
- *January & February 2023 Abatement Summary*