

## Town of Hingham



# Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2023

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Harold called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### **Members Present**

Stephen Harold, chair; Kirk Shilts and Clark Frazier

### **Staff Present**

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Liz Welch, DPW Office Manager; J.R. Frey, Town Engineer; Matt Cahill; DPW Assistant Superintendent and Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor

### **Other Town Officials**

Tom Mayo, Town Administrator

Brian Stack, Hingham Advisory Committee

### **2023 Town Meeting Warrant, Route 3A Sewer Main Proposed Upgrades**

Mr. Mayo explained that after talking with Town Council, that whenever the Town borrows for sewer projects, only the Sewer Commission can assign responsibility to the ratepayers. He said the Commission needs to vote to ask the Hingham Select Board and the Hingham Advisory Committee to support the Commission's Warrant Article.

Mr. Sylvester explained that in 2021 the Commission voted to apply for a state Coastal Zone Management (CZM) 75% matching grant which funded the Broad Cove pump station resiliency study and full design of the Route 3A force main that exits this station. He said the Commission's consultant engineers (W&S) did borings in 2021 and came up with project design alternatives. He said what we would do with the existing main was not investigated - including keeping it as a back-up redundancy. He said the estimated cost of construction to replace the 3A force main including engineering and contingencies is about \$8million.

Mr. Sylvester said that although the Route 3A gravity sewer main also needs attention, there is no design as of yet. The realignment of the gravity sewer near Stoddard's Neck is still pending based on the ability to secure an easement on state DCR property which is still in the works. There are a lot of unknown questions with the potential cost to upgrade the gravity main. He said about \$270,000 is still necessary to complete the current Stoddard's Neck capital project. An estimate to replace the entire 3A gravity main including investigation could be \$4.5million.

Mr. Sylvester said he believed the 3A force main needs to be replaced but there are still questions of engineering and investigation. He said we need the design and investigation work done before going before the ratepayers at Town Meeting and answer their questions about costly sewer projects. He suggested that the Commission request up to \$500,000 for the engineering and investigation for a new Rt. 3A force main.

Dr. Shilts agreed with Mr. Sylvester and that the Article at 2023 Town Meeting should also include completing the study on the Rt. 3A gravity main and the Broad Cove pump station resiliency study that was never finished.

Mr. Frazier said the Commission should allocate enough money to fund all studies. The Commission discussed the amount of investigative/design money needed for what they would like completed. The request will be for up to \$900,000.

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts moves that the Town of Hingham Board of Sewer Commissioners hereby requests that the Town of Hingham Select Board and the Advisory Committee support the proposed Warrant Article submitted by the Sewer Commission to authorize borrowing up to \$900,000 to pay for the costs of designing, engineering, and/or permitting the main sewer line and appurtenances thereto located in the Route 3A highway and further that the Board of Sewer Commissioners hereby agrees that any notes and/or bonds issued by the Town to finance said project under M.G.L. c. 44, or any other applicable laws, shall be paid from the sewer rates in amounts sufficient to pay the debt service on said notes and/or bonds in accordance with the amortization schedule as determined by the Select Board; 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 12:52 p.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 2/27/23*
- *Executive Summary of Needs for the Sewer System Capital Improvement Projects*
- *Answers to Questions submitted to Weston & Sampson*