

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the North Central Hearing Room, Hingham Town Hall.

Commissioners Present

Kirk Shilts, Chairman and Robert Higgins.

Department Personnel & Staff Present

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; and Liz Welch, DPW Office Administrator.

Agenda

The Commission reviewed the draft agenda.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to approve the agenda as drafted; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the draft 4/2/19 public meeting minutes.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to approve the April 2, 2019 minutes as drafted; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sewer Commission Reorganization

Dr. Shilts asked for nominations for chairman for the upcoming term.
Dr. Shilts nominated Robert Higgins. No other nominations were offered.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion for Mr. Higgins to serve as chair for the 2019/20 term to commence upon the meeting's conclusion; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Final 2019 Sewer Use Charge Assessment

Ms. Welch reviewed the total Sewer Use Charges for the May 2019 bill of \$1,667,400.06. Penalties and interest from the December 2018 bill is \$7,638.29, resulting in a Final 2019 Sewer Use Charge Assessment of \$1,675,038.35. Ms. Welch said that this amount will be reported to the Town Accountant.

Town of Hingham



Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to approve the Final 2019 Sewer Use Charge Assessment of \$1,675,038.35 for the Hingham and Weir River Sewer Districts; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sewer Bill Abatement Approvals

The Commission reviewed the sewer bill abatements from ratepayers at 44 Park View Drive and 39 Eldridge Court.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to approve abatements for 44 Park View Drive for \$462.30 and for 39 Eldridge Court for \$237.60; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Resignation

Ms. Welch said the Selectmen received a letter of resignation from Stephen Harold resigning from the Sewer Commission dated May 7, 2019.

Dr. Shilts stated the Town has posted the vacancy on its website.

Delegation of Actions to DPW Superintendent

Dr. Shilts asked Mr. Sylvester what authorizations could be delegated to him. He questioned the need of calling Commissioners into the office every few months for contract signatures. Mr. Sylvester stated that he can sign contracts for up to \$50,000, and if it is over that amount, he would like the Commission to sign-off on it.

Sewer Policy Discussion:

Water usage sewer assessments in multi-unit buildings and developments

Mr. Higgins said he would like to follow-up on the previous meeting's discussion about private sewer systems and their unmetered (unknown) Infiltration & Inflow (I&I).

- Mr. Higgins said the Bare Cove Park easement that services the Beals Cove residential development concerns him because it has old pipes and likely leaks in the system. He said whoever owns a private sewer line should be responsible for that line and for removing I&I.
- Dr. Shilts suggested the Commission identify which multi-unit development requires what type of water or wastewater meter.
- Mr. Sylvester said the Avalon II development has an aggregate compound water meter, and he doesn't yet know what the Broadstone development will use. He said he will call Aquarion Water Co. to identify the water use threshold for using a compound meter, and inquire about the criteria for having a multi-unit water meter rather than individual meters for each unit.

Town of Hingham



- Mr. Sylvester said both Avalon II and Broadstone use modern PVC piping in their private wastewater systems which have less of an I&I concern.
- Mr. Dempsey suggested that if a pumping station connecting a private system to our public system is on Town property, we could install a meter pit. Everything that comes through, sewage and I&I, would be known. Comparing the difference between actual wastewater flow and water use would identify I&I. We could then give them an opportunity to fix it before charging them a specific I&I fee.
- Mr. Dempsey said Wompatuck State Park now has a wastewater flow meter and SCATA system.
- Mr. Dempsey suggested he could have a camera inspection of the Bare Cove easement done this week. This would be a baseline report. We could require the private sewer systems connected to it do it annually thereafter and report back to us.
- Mr. Higgins suggested we put a wastewater flow meter in all large developments, like Beals Cove, that have old clay pipes we are concerned about I&I. He said newer large developments like Avalon II and Broadstone probably don't need a wastewater meter as they have PVC pipe.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to install a flow meter in the Bare Cove Park Easement for purpose of identifying I&I, and to conduct a bench-mark visual inspection of the sewer main within the easement; the Motion passed by unanimous vote.

DPW Superintendent / Sewer Supervisor Reports:

- Mr. Dempsey explained that on May 1st there was a significant sewer main break at 255 Lincoln Street. This was due to an 8- foot section longitude crack of the force main likely from a water-hammer effect. Our engineering consultant, Weston Sampson, is looking into grant money to cover this repair - although an immediate repair was done that day. Mr. Dempsey said we bypassed (trucked) about 200,000 gallons. He said there was some surcharging on Downer Avenue. The approximate cost of repair is \$30,000. Mr. Dempsey said it would be wise to replace the entire force main from Broad Cove Station to Fottler Road as a capital project at some point. This may have to be done in stages.
- Mr. Dempsey reported that a letter was sent to 73 Canterbury Street because an illegal sump pump found discharging into the sewer system.

Scheduling:

The next meeting was not determined.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch,
DPW Office Administrator

Town of Hingham



Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda 5/7/19*
- *Draft minutes 4/2/19*