

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020

Remote Meeting via Telephone Conference Call

Call to Order: 10:05am

Mr. Higgins read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.”

Present:

- Sewer Commissioners: Robert Higgins, Chair; Kirk Shilts and Stephen Harold
- Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent
- Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor
- Liz Welch, DPW/Sewer Office Administrator
- Juliet and Steve Fulgoni, 128 Hersey Street

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Dr. Shilts made mentioned a typo that needed to be corrected as well as adding which Commissioners signed the On-Call Sewer Contracts this past December.

Vote: Dr. Shilts made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020 as amended. Mr. Harold seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Higgins: yes

Dr. Shilts: yes

Mr. Harold: yes

FY2020 Sewer Rate:

Ms. Welch explained the FY2020 Sewer Rate has been calculated based on actual expenses and income from FY2019 and the anticipated expenditures (appropriations) and credits for FY2020. The new proposed rate will be \$12.36 per 100 cubic feet which represents an 11.4% increase over the current rate of \$10.95 per 100 cubic feet.

Town of Hingham



Ms. Welch explained the increase is due to the FY19 30.5% Hull IMA and the FY20 7.5% Hull IMA increases as well as the FY19 3.8% MWRA and the FY20 3.8% MWRA increases. Also included in the calculation is the FY19 270 Lincoln Street Force Main Repair as well as FY20 Mill Street Rehabilitation, Fee Pond Easement Dig Repair, Walton Cove Main Break and North Street Sewer Repair.

Vote: Dr. Shilts made a motion to set the FY2020 Sewer Rate at \$12.36 per hundred cubic feet. Mr. Higgins seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Higgins: yes

Dr. Shilts: yes

Mr. Harold: yes

Sewer Bill Abatements:

The Commission reviewed the sewer bill abatements from Patriots Cinemas, 65 Main Street; 10 Foley Beach Road and South Shore Country Club, 274 South Street.

Vote: Mr. Harold made a motion to approve the submitted abatements for 65 Main Street for \$1,018.35, 10 Foley Beach Road for \$361.55 and 274 South Street for \$1960.05. Mr. Higgins seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Higgins: yes

Dr. Shilts: yes

Mr. Harold: yes

Sewer Commission Reorganization

Mr. Higgins explained that every May or June the Sewer Commission votes for a new Chair.

Dr. Shilts nominated Mr. Harold to be the new Chair of the Sewer Commission. Mr. Harold explained that he was not interested at this time. Dr. Shilts then nominated Mr. Higgins to be the Chair.

Vote: Dr. Shilts made a motion to elect Mr. Higgins Chair for the 2020/21 annual term. Mr. Harold seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Higgins: yes

Dr. Shilts: yes

Mr. Harold: yes

Town of Hingham



128 Hersey Street Connection to Sewer Discussion:

Mr. Higgins explained that Juliet and Steve Fulgoni, owners of the lot at 128 Hersey Street, are interested in building a 3 bedroom home on this lot and would like to be able to hook up to sewer. Ms. Fulgoni explained that they have purchased three unbuildable lots and put them together to make one buildable lot. They have the approved plan to show this. It appears, however, the lot is outside of the 200 foot reach in to the Hingham Sewer District.

Dr. Higgins explained that he has had communication with the MWRA on this issue and he believes this needs to be looked into further. Also no connection application has been received at the office. This needs to be filled out prior to looking into further. A proposed plan needs to be submitted as well

Dr. Shilts understands that any resident outside the sewer district needs to follow the MWRA OP-11 policy, Also there are a number of Town entities that need to look at this before the MWRA. The Sewer Commission, DPW Superintendent and a letter is needed from the Town Administrator.

Mr. Sylvester explained that he has spoken with the MWRA as well and there is a chance that this property could be within 200 foot reach in. Mr. Sylvester is waiting on that map from the MWRA. Mr. Sylvester explained that the Sewer Commission needs to be on the same page as the MWRA relative to hookups that are outside of the district. He believes we were a few years ago but now there are new people at the MWRA and we need to get on the same page with them.

Mr. Higgins stated that the Sewer Commission will postpone this discussion until we receive application, plot plan, map from the MWRA and other pertinent information to make this decision.

Comments:

Dr. Shilts wanted to make sure that everyone is safe and wanted recognize the work that the Hingham Sewer Department is doing during this COVID-19 Emergency as an essential service for the Town.

Adjournment:

Mr. Higgins made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Shilts seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Higgins: yes

Dr. Shilts: yes

Mr. Harold: yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am

Town of Hingham



Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
DPW Office Administrator

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda for May 12, 2020*
- *Draft meeting minutes of December 10, 2019*
- *FY2020 Sewer Rate Summary Sheet*
- *Sewer Use Rate Sheet FY93 to FY20*
- *Email dated 5/5/20 from Juliet & Steve Fulgoni*