

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023

Call to Order

Mr. Frazier called the public meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present

Clark Frazier, chair; Kirk Shilts & James Byrne

Staff Present

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Liz Welch, DPW Office Manager; Matt Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent; and JR Frey, Town Engineer.

Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of May 9, 2023. Mr. Frazier offered a few minor changes.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023 as amended; seconded by Mr. Byrne and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

Discussion:

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) 2023 Resiliency Grant Application

Mr. Frey explained he has initiated a process with the Town's consultants including the Commission's consultant to complete a harbor structures risk assessments that includes sewer facilities that have not had a resiliency assessment. Four (4) pump stations along the shore regions are target for hardening against sea level flooding. Ginny LeClair is the Town's Sustainably Coordinator overseeing the application.

The state grant is for about \$400,000 and the application due by July 11th. The Town's matching portion would be 25% but heavier for the Town side rather than the sewer side. This is anticipated as a fiscal year project.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to support the CZM Resiliency Grant Application and assist the Town in completing the application; seconded by Mr. Byrne and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

DPW Superintendent Report

• Route 3A force main rupture

Mr. Sylvester said a force main break happened at 222 Lincoln St. last week. The DEP & Board of Health were notified, and our sewer repair contractor completed the fix. He said there was no surcharge. The cost will be around \$50,000.

- **Upgrades to the Broad Cove pump station**

Mr. Sylvester said the back-up generator is going to be replaced at Broad Cove. A natural gas generator was purchased so gas service was installed. He said this will also fuel the building's heater and water heater at no added cost.

- **3A Force and Gravity Main Replacement Projects and Potential Federal Grant Money**

Mr. Sylvester explained that we are working with procurement for the engineering part of the project. The Commission's consultant, Weston & Sampson, is looking at the Stodder's Neck gravity main reconfiguration and believes we may be able to use an 18-inch rather than 24-inch main by changing the pipe to plastic which has a much smoother surface that's conducive to better flow.

Dr. Shilts said the force main project should be started as soon as possible. Mr. Sylvester stated that both projects need to be bid out separately.

Mr. Frazier has concern if the gravity main will have enough capacity. Mr. Sylvester explained that is why we are having the study done and see what the recommendation would be.

Mr. Sylvester spoke with Town Counsel Murphy regarding the Stodder's Neck easement. Once this is finalized, we can start the borings to see what will work.

- **Capital Budget Status Report**

Mr. Sylvester explained we have an old system but is updating it. He said he uses available capital resources when unforeseen emergencies happen. He said \$482,000 was spent on capital upgrades last year. He said the Walton Cove station has a new pump and generator; Greenbush station has a new generator; Broad Cove station had its pump's broken impeller fixed and will soon get a new pump; Town Hall had check valves replaced; and Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) work was performed along Planters Field Ln. Mr. Sylvester said that \$250,000 in upgrades were not done in FY2022 due to COVID-19 but moved to ensuing years.

Abatements

Ms. Welch reviewed sewer bill abatement requests from 33 Franklin Rodgers Road; 57 South Street; 13 Whiting Street; 102 Tuckers Lane; 194 North Street; 5 Bayberry Road; 8 Planters Lane; 171 Main Street; 4 Tupelo Drive; 139 South Street; 23 Foley Beach Road; and 30 Lincoln Street. She explained why these abatements should be considered. She also mentioned an additional commitment from 36B Thaxter Street.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted sewer abatements for 33 Franklin Rodgers Road for \$6,194.18; 57 South Street for \$598.30; 13 Whiting Street for \$463.40; 102 Tuckers Lane for \$274.92; 194 North Street for \$239.02; 5 Bayberry Road for \$478.04; 8 Planters Lane for \$1,799.68; 171 Main Street for \$5,103.78; 4 Tupelo Drive for \$1,279.46; 139 South Street for \$913.90; 23 Foley Beach Road for \$787.36; and 30 Lincoln Street for \$8,871.86; seconded by Mr. Byrne and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

Emergency Fund Operations Budget Line Item Establishment

Mr. Sylvester explained we have an emergency fund account but it is not funded. He said money can be transferred from the I&I fund if needed. Dr. Shilts recommends we fund it to \$50,000 now. Mr. Sylvester will speak with the Town Accountant about the process and revisit this at a future meeting. He added that he would not want to be

restricted to just this fund should another expensive emergency happen somewhere else.

Mr. Frazier said we should wait until the start of FY-2024 for any funding or transfer of funds.

Discussion:

Sewer Application Form

Dr. Shilts said we need an application form that captures more information. Mr. Frazier wants to add a section about grinder pumps. Dr. Shilts said he will update the draft for future discussion.

Potential Impact of MBTA New Zoning Requirement

Mr. Frazer said this will be a future agenda item. He suggested inviting a liaison from the Planning Board.

Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Vote: Mr. Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
DPW/Sewer Office Manager

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- *Meeting agenda 6/20/23*
- *Draft minutes of 5/9/23*
- *Sewer Bill Abatement Summary, May & June 2023*
- *Emergency Repair Fund Establishment Memo, Shilts, 6/4/23*
- *Draft Sewer Connection Application*