

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2018

Call to Order:

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

Commissioners Present:

Kirk Shilts, Chairman and Robert Higgins. Stephen Harold was absent from this meeting.

Department Personnel & Staff Present:

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

Agenda:

The Commission reviewed the posted agenda.

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

Meeting Minutes:

The Commission review the meeting minutes of April 10, 2018 and May 3, 2018.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to approve the April 10, 2018 and May 3, 2018 minutes; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

60 Howe Street Fence Discussion:

Mr. Dempsey introduced Jim and Susan Todhunter, 60 Howe Street, who are neighbors to the Howe Street pump station who are requesting to remove the existing chain link fence and replace it with their own 5 foot wood board fence similar to neighbor's fence on opposite side of the pump station at 64 Howe Street.

Jim and Susan Todhunter went on to explain that two posts would have to be moved and some bushes would need to be trimmed which they are willing to do. They explained that they had a survey done and the existing chain link fence is 2 inches on their property in the back and 5 inches on their property in the front.

The Commission would like some type of protection document to agree to maintain the fence and repair the fence in a reasonable amount of time. Conservation also needs to be notified regarding the trimming of the bushes.

Town of Hingham



Motion to authorization for the fence to be replaced by Mr. & Mrs. Todhunter and require some type of protection document to agree to maintain the fence and repair the fence in a reasonable amount of time.

Mr. Higgins made a MOTION, seconded by Dr. Shilts, to allow Susan and Jim Todhunter of 60 Howe Street to construct a fence that would serve as a protection fence for the Howe Street Station under direction of the Sewer Department Staff; and to authorize the Sewer Department Staff to determine the appropriate fence and security document pending review by Town Counsel; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Reorganization of Sewer Commission – Vote:

This will take place at the next meeting as Mr. Harold was not in attendance.

Sewer Rules and Regulations Discussion:

Dr. Shilts explained Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, reaffirmed that Town Counsel has not gotten back to the Sewer Commission because no vote had been taken and where the Commission is an independent board. He went on to explained that the changes include a Private Sewer Collections Systems section; updated Infiltration and Inflow fees for the Hingham Sewer district as well as adding definitions and formatting changes.

Dr. Shilts made a Motion to post for public commend the proposed changes to the Sewer Commission's Sewer Rules and Regulations in Hingham, MA as drafted and further amended; and forward such copy to Town Counsel for appropriate review; the Motion was seconded by Mr. Higgins and passed by unanimous vote.

Hull Intermunicipal Agreement Discussion:

Dr. Shilts explained that the Hull Intermunicipal Agreement is a 25 year document. He went on to explain that we are five years away from that date so we should begin to look into it within the next two years.

Mr. Sylvester explained there have been a few Issues one of which they are supposed to give Hingham the rates or a reasonable estimate 90 days before Town meeting which they have not been doing for the past five years. This has caused issues with budget planning.

Hull also has a new billing policy which he has to look more into more to see if they are able to change the way they bill us under the current agreement. They also are looking to include other areas of Cohasset and Hingham if necessary.

Supervisor's Sewer System Report:

Steve Dempsey explained that this is in our 5th year of I & I investigations. He showed on a map what had been inspected or rehabbed in the past five years. The work seems to be working has we have mitigated approximately 2,000 gallons per day.

Town of Hingham



Mr. Dempsey reported that the Sewer Department has done approximately 500 sump pump inspections in the North Sewer District with very few sump pumps found.

The following work has been done on the sewer pumps stations:

- Howe Street – pump
- Bradley Woods – rehabbed
- Broad Cove – station piping replaced in 2017
- Greenbush station – needs to be rehabbed – MWRA will reimburse us for that.

There have been a few service rehabilitations and tree roots seem to be the biggest issue.

Mr. Dempsey explained that he had all the licensed drainlayers retake the drainlayer test this year. About 40 people took the test. We still have a few that couldn't make that date so a makeup date will be scheduled.

Sewer Abatements:

The Sewer Commission reviewed sewer bill abatements from residents of 31 Whiton Avenue, 15 Malcolm Street, 10 Ringbolt Road, 34 Emerald Street, 39 Eldridge Court, 25 Bel Air Road, 27 Baker Hill Drive, 1501 Tuckers Lane and an additional commitment for 1 Talbots Drive.

Mr. Higgins made a Motion, seconded by Dr. Shilts to approve the submitted abatements for 31 Whiton Avenue for \$831.60; 15 Malcolm Street for \$683.10; 10 Ringbolt Road, \$613.80; 34 Emerald Street, \$613.80; 39 Eldridge Court, \$207.90; 25 Bel Air Road, \$841.50; 27 Baker Hill Drive, \$594.00; 1501 Tuckers Lane; \$554.40; and an additional commitment for 1 Talbots Drive for \$1,989.90; the Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Scheduling:

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch,
DPW Office Administrator

Documents reviewed during public meeting:

- Meeting agenda 7/10/18
- Draft minutes 4/10/18 & 5/3/18
- Proposed Changes – Sewer Rules and Regulations
- Hull Intermunicipal Agreement