

## Town of Hingham



# Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

### **Call to Order**

Dr. Shilts called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

### **Members Present**

Kirk Shilts (presiding member), Stephen Harold and Clark Frazier

### **Staff Present**

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Liz Welch, DPW/Sewer Office Manager; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; and Matt Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent

### **Chairperson message**

Dr. Shilts welcomed Mr. Harold back and stated this is first meeting of the new term with all three Commissioners.

### **Agenda**

Dr. Shilts reviewed the posted agenda with the Commission. Ms. Welch said the property developer of 124 & 134 Rockland St. and 51, 55, 57 & 59 George Washington Blvd (proposed 460-bed inpatient and outpatient treatment campus) requested to withdraw from the agenda.

**Vote:** Mr. Frazier moved to set the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

#### **June 10, 2021**

The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes of 6/10/21. The Final FY21 Sewer Use Charge was changed to the correct amount as well as other minor changes.

**Vote:** Mr. Frazier moved to approve the minutes of 6/10/21 as amended, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

*Mr. Harold abstained from voting*

### **Commission Reorganization**

Dr. Shilts opened floor for nominations for chair of the 2021/22 term.

Dr. Shilts nominated Mr. Harold. No other nominations were offered.

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts moved to elect Mr. Harold as chair for 2021/22 term, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

Mr. Frazier asked if the MWRA Representative is also an elected position. This matter will be added to the next meeting.

**Action Items:**

• **Final FY21 Sewer Use Charge Assessment (correction)**

Ms. Welch explained that she reported the incorrect figure at the June 2021 meeting. She gave December's billing total with interest rather than May's total with interest.

The Commission reviewed the sewer use charges for the May 2021 bill totaling \$1,665,685.38. Additional penalties and interest since the December 2020 preliminary bill totaled \$10,951.69 – resulting in a Final 2021 Sewer Use Charge Assessment of \$1,676,637.07. This amount will be reported to the Town Accountant.

**Vote:** Mr. Harold moved to accept the Final 2021 Sewer Use Charge Assessment of \$1,676,637.07 for the Hingham and Weir River Sewer Districts, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

• **Sewer Fee Schedule Update**

Dr. Shilts said there is a proposed new "After Hour Inspection Fee" on the fee schedule. Mr. Sylvester said the fee would be for work outside of normal working hours from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

**Vote:** Mr. Harold moved to approve an "After Hours Inspection" fee of \$300/hour with the applicable hours being outside of 7:30am to 4:00pm, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

• **Sewer Rules & Regulations Update**

Dr. Shilts said that after every meeting he incorporates the changes that were discussed and agreed to the working draft. He said there are only a few changes left to review. He would like to get a finished draft posted for public comment and sent to Town Counsel for review. Dr. Shilts went through the remaining items with the Commission. The Commission agreed that a new flood plain property section and a pump standards section proposed by Mr. Frazier would be discussed at a future update.

**Vote:** Mr. Harold moved to approve the Sewer Rules and Regulations final draft dated 7/15/21 for public posting and to forward said copy to Town Counsel, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

Dr. Shilts said the proposed "Appendix K" (fee scenarios) is part of the updated Sewer Rules and Regulations and should be voted on too.

**Vote:** Mr. Harold moved to approve "Appendix K" final draft dated 6/10/21 for public posting, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

• **Weir River Sewer District, Connection Policy Update (proposed)**

Dr. Shilts explained his proposed update to the current WRSD Connection Policy Moratorium. He said the current policy was voted on 2/17/17 which closed the WRSD to additional hook-ups for any property that has not paid a betterment. His proposed policy would cover existing homes within the WRSD that have not paid a

betterment. He said in speaking with staff and looking at the available documents, the proposed policy is not ready to be voted on. He said the Commission still has the ability to consider new hook-ups in the WRSD on a case-by-case basis regardless of the property's betterment status. The Commission reviewed the proposed draft policy's bullet points for consideration of a future policy.

**The Commission took no action on this matter.**

- **Sewer Connection Request**  
**96 Hull Street**

This matter was continued from the previous meeting.

Dr. Shilts said the property owner of 96 Hull Street would like to connect to the WRSD although this property has not paid a betterment. The applicant, Mr. Brian Joyce, sent a letter indicating pertinent points for the Commission to consider.

Dr. Shilts said documents show that although a betterment was not paid for this property, we have been holding capacity for a number of properties that haven't paid betterments, including this one. He said the Commission needs a policy moving forward about existing properties in the WRSD, paid & unpaid betterments, and the current moratorium on additional hook-ups.

Dr. Shilts said the Intermunicipal Agreement with Hull gives us two numbers, peak flow of 173,000 gpd and an average daily flow of 65,000 gpd. It also states that in a "Dwelling Unit" each bedroom has an average daily flow of 62.5 gallons per bedroom which is what Hull uses with their system. 173,000 gpd divided by 110 gallons per bedroom (Title 5) equates to a maximum of 1,572 bedrooms at peak flow - without consideration of any inflow or infiltration. 65,000 gpd divided by 62.5 gallons per bedroom equates to 1,040 bedrooms at average daily flow. He said average daily flow per bedroom nationally ranges from 50-70 gallons per bedroom. He said Hingham's average flow doesn't necessarily need to match Hull's because of the comparative more modern age of our WRSD system.

Dr. Shilts asked Mr. Dempsey if we have adequate capacity to accept an additional 2-3 bedroom. Mr. Dempsey explained that the WRSD is a little under 40,000 gpd. He then asked Ms. Welch if this property was included in the total before the 2017 moratorium. She said it was for three bedrooms.

Mr. Harold stated that we should allow 96 Hull St. to hook up as did Mr. Frazier.

Dr. Shilts asked if we should keep the 2017 moratorium in place or not. The consensus was to wait on rescinding the moratorium until we create a proper policy for all applicable properties in the WRSD.

**Vote:** Mr. Harold moved to grant a sewer connection for three (3) bedrooms to 96 Hull Street conditional on the payment of all applicable fees and standard construction requirements, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

- **Sewer Bill Abatements**

Ms. Welch reviewed with the Commission sewer bill abatement requests from 25 Bel Air Road for \$1,625.45; 243A North Street for \$291.45; 37 Lincoln Street for \$717.44; 14 Baker Hill Drive for \$2,163.53; 37 Fearing Road

for \$175.00; 41 Beal Street for \$919.22; and 3702 Tuckers Lane for \$212.99. She additionally explained why these abatements should be considered.

**Vote:** Mr. Frazier moved to approve the submitted abatements from 25 Bel Air Road for \$1,625.45; 243A North Street for \$291.45; 37 Lincoln Street for \$717.44; 14 Baker Hill Drive for \$2,163.53; 37 Fearing Road for \$175.00; 41 Beal Street for \$919.22; and 3702 Tuckers Lane for \$212.99, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call):

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

#### **Discussion Items:**

- **Weir River Sewer District/ Hull Intermunicipal Agreement, Process for Updating**

Mr. Sylvester explained that the current contract will expire in 7-years in 2028. He provided the Commission with the legal document that confirms this date.

Dr. Shilts said that this gives us time to come up with a plan to accommodate future sewage flow in the district. He suggested the Commission schedule a meeting with the Planning Board and a meeting with the Select Board to hear their visions on future development. The Commission would then have an educated recommendation to bring to the Town of Hull.

- **DPW Superintendent / Sewer Supervisor Reports**

Mr. Dempsey said that we had 38 feet of 18" gravity main collapse last month. He said sewage was flowing across the highway and into the catch basins on the southbound side of Lincoln Street (Rt. 3A) at Shipyard Drive. National Water Main repaired the break. He said the whole line needs to be put on the priority list.

- **2021 Resiliency Grant Submission Update**

Ms. Welch said the resiliency grant application for the Lincoln Street force main written by the Commission's engineer (Weston & Sampson) was submitted on May 24, 2021. The Commissioners were provided a copy of the submission.

#### **Scheduling**

The next meeting was not scheduled

#### **Adjournment**

**Vote:** Mr. Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 pm., seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Harold, Frazier & Shilts*

*members opposed: none*

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Welch  
DPW/Sewer Office Manager

#### ***Documents reviewed during public meeting:***

- *Meeting agenda for 7/15/21*
- *Email from Kayla Macleod, RE: 124 Rockland St., 7/2/21*

- *Draft meeting minutes of 6/10/21*
- *HSC Fee Schedule, 7/15/21*
- *Updated draft Sewer Regulations, 7/8/21*
- *Sewer Fee Examples, Appendix K, 6/10/21*
- *NSD I&I Fee Calculation Chart, 2/7/17*
- *Proposed Policy on Unallocated WRSD Properties, 7/8/21*
- *DEP Phase II capacity, 6/21/21*
- *Hingham/Hull Intermunicipal Agreement, October 1996*
- *Email from Brian Joyce, RE: 96 Hull Street, 6/10/21*
- *Letter from Tanya & Brian Joyce, RE: 96 Hull Street, 7/7/21*
- *Abatement Request Summary, 7/15/21*
- *Acts of 1996, chapter 421, 11/22/96*
- *CZM Coastal Resiliency Grant Program FY22 submission, RE: Broad Cove Sewer Main, 5/21/21*