

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2023

Call to Order

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

Members Present

Clarke Frazier, chair; Kirk Shilts & James Byrne

Staff Present

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Steve Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Liz Welch, DPW Office Manager; Matt Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent; Steve Petersen, Weston & Sampson consultants (W&S); and Pat Yeo, W&S

Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of June 20, 2023. Mr. Frazier made some minor changes.

Vote: Mr. Byrne moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023 as amended; seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

Abatements

Ms. Welch presented sewer bill abatement requests from 2 Isaac Sprague Drive and 3001 Hockley Drive.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted sewer abatements for 2 Isaac Sprague Drive for \$2,629.22, and 3001 Hockley Drive for \$1,546.60; seconded by Mr. Byrne and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Frazier, Shilts & Byrne

members opposed: none

Status Reports:

Route 3A Sewer Project/ Planning, Design & Construction Schedule

Mr. Peterson gave an overview of 3A sewer system capital project and possible scheduling.

The Broad Cove pump station has a force main that discharges into a gravity main at Shipyard Drive which then ends at Stodder's Neck. Shipyard and Bradley Woods stations also tie into this gravity main. Design work is completed on the Broad Cove force main. He said Broad Cove station conveys close to 80% of the Hingham sewer district's entire flow through this force main. He estimated the station pumps a consistent 2 million gal./day.

Mr. Peterson said the average daily flow along the gravity main is within our permitted amount but at peak flow there has been some surcharging. He said capacity is an important issue that needs to be addressed. In 2015 W&S did flow metering which saw flows that were anticipated. He said the Hingham Sewer District is limited by the MWRA to no more than 6.62 million gal./day.

Mr. Peterson said a proposed 24" gravity sewer leading up to Stodder's neck to the MWRA pump station could be a

potential fix. He also said getting the State Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to sign-off on this proposed upgrade and realignment has been long process and the last piece is a signed easement from DCR before construction engineering can start.

Mr. Yeo said W&S will first analyze the existing gravity sewer from Shipyard Dr. to Stodder's Neck with a video inspection. Once we have that information, we will know the condition of the gravity main and the options to get the capacity that's needed. He said one option could be to replace the 18" gravity main the entire way with a new 24" main. A downside would be requiring a surface bypass for a while as it is replaced. Another option is to leave the 18" line in place, install a 24" sewer in a different corridor, reconnect all properties to the new main and abandon the old 18" when done. Or possibly keep the old 18" as a relief sewer which would then just take the flow from the Broad Cove force main. He said W&S will put a report together with the costs that the Commission will have before December in preparation for 2024 Town Meeting.

At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was Zoom-bombed; the meeting continued offline.

Mr. Sylvester stated that since we already have the design for the force main, the report on the condition of the gravity main will dictate what to do first.

Resiliency/ Hingham CZM Grant Application Status

Mr. Yeo reported that we have yet to get a response from the grant's originator, the State Coastal Zone Management (CZM). He thought the award notification should be in a month or so.

Capital Projects/ Broad Cove Pump Station Improvements

Mr. Sylvester recited a list of all capital projects, Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) projects and recent force main breaks. He said the new pump at Broad Cove is in process of being installed and should be up and running shortly.

I&I Reduction Projects

Mr. Sylvester stated that the work identified in W&S's FY-17 I&I report have been completed. The remaining work will be based on amount of I&I in localized areas. He said there are prioritized areas that need to be done. There has been a consistent effort to inspect the public system each year and we are almost through all the public sewered areas. He said the work identified in W&S's FY-18 and FY-19 I&I reports are about 60% done.

Dr. Shilts said the owners of private sewer systems that are connected to our public system, should have their own I&I plan that would not need to exceed what we require in our public plan.

Mr. Sylvester stated that we follow the Mass DEP analysis for I&I work. He said he follows to the extent that there are available capital funds. He added the MWRA I&I matching fund helps.

Sewer Supervisor Operation Report

Mr. Dempsey would like to have a discussion of the Sewer Consolidation Agreement at a future meeting. Dr. Shilts stated that this is a discussion about a legal contract between the Commission and the Town, which should be held in Executive Session.

Discussion:

Preliminary FY-2023 Budget

Mr. Frazier would like an overview of year-to-date. Mr. Sylvester explained that he moves money around to balance the budget.

Sewer Commission Website and Public Information

Mr. Frazier would like to defer discussion until a future meeting.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Connection Policy

Dr. Shilts stated that 2023 Town Meeting voted to allow detached ADU units, and the Commission should set out a policy that describes these new hook-ups in our sewer districts. He said he drafted a policy for discussion at a future meeting.

Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Byrne 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*
- *Sewer Bill Abatement Summary, June 2023*
- *FY23 Sewer Capital/I&I/Force Main Break Summary (emailed)*