

## Town of Hingham



# Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2020

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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"

### **Members Present**

Robert Higgins, chair; Kirk Shilts and Stephen Harold

### **Staff Present**

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Daniel Dempsey, Sewer Foreman; and Liz Welch, DPW/Sewer Office Administrator.

### **Agenda**

Dr. Shilts said in the Board package there is a copy of proposed Appendix K about connection fees linked to the Sewer Rules and Regulations. He said this was not an action item for a vote and considered New Business.

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts moved to approve the draft agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*

*members opposed: none*

### **Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2020**

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2020 as drafted, seconded by Mr. Higgins and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*

*members opposed: none*

### **Action Items:**

- **128 Hersey Street, Sewer Connection Application**

This matter is a continuation from a prior meeting.

The property owner, Ms. Fugoni, said they completed all of the necessary paperwork to show that the property is in the Hingham Sewer District. Dr. Shilts said the amount of property within the 200 foot buffer is minuscule but still within the buffer. When asked, Ms. Fulgoni said they own the abutting Hersey St. property to the northwest between this property and the sewer district boundary. Dr. Shilts said there still should be conditions with the motion if this application is granted. The first would be that allowance into the 200 foot buffer to the Hingham Sewer District is the purview of the Sewer Commission and not the MWRA. He said this fact should be in our sewer regulations too. The second condition would be if a property outside of the sewer district lies between the applicant's property and the district, and if the proposed sewer line needed to transverse in front of this outside property, the application should not be granted. Dr. Shilts explained that these are his conditions and hopes the Commission agrees.

**Note:** Dr. Shilts moved to allow the property at 128 Hersey Street entrance into the North Sewer District conditional that no unsewered property on Hersey St. lie between it and the sewer district, and the applicant follow all applicable construction requirements of the Hingham Sewer Department; seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*

*members opposed: none*

- **7 Cliff Road, Additional Bedroom Application**

Mr. Higgins explained to the property owners, Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy, that there are no bedrooms left in the Weir River Sewer District. He said the Commission had to turn down other applicants that were looking for sewer service including most recently three residential and one commercial.

Mrs. Kennedy said they had updated their plans so they no longer have additional bedrooms in the plan. She said they will keep the office and the great room but these rooms will have no doors and an open railing. Therefore, they would like to withdraw their request for an additional bedroom.

Mr. Dempsey explained that once the renovations are completed, he will do a walkthrough that includes a state Title 5 bedroom count before signing a certificate of occupancy.

- **125 Hull Street Cohasset, Sewer Connection Application**

Mr. Bjorklund, the property owner, said he was told by Cohasset that he needs approval from Hingham to connect into the Hull St. sewer main. He said the Town of Cohasset has approved the sewer connection from their end.

Mr. Dempsey had questions about how the physical connection is going to take place. Mr. Sylvester stated that he plans are in the office, and the Sewer Department will work with the homeowner and/or Cohasset to review how this connection will be made. Mr. Sylvester explained that even though the applicant is a Cohasset sewer system customer, the appropriate permits still need to be pulled from the Town of Hingham. Mr. Bjorklund acknowledged what will be required.

**Note:** Dr. Shilts moved to allow the hookup of 125 Hull Street, Cohasset into the Hull Street sewer main condition that the applicant follow all applicable construction requirements of the Hingham Sewer

Department; seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);  
*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*  
*members opposed: none*

### **Abatements:**

Ms. Welch reviewed with the Commission sewer bill abatements from 3 Birch Circle and 3 Jordan Way.

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted abatements from 3 Birch Circle for \$1,029.30 and 3 Jordan Way for \$613.20; seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);  
*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*  
*members opposed: none*

### **Discussion Items:**

- **South Hingham Industrial Park Sewer District/ CWMP**

Mr. Higgins explained the need to communicate with the towns of Rockland and Weymouth in order to update and complete our town's Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan (CWMP). He suggested setting up meetings with them to see if there is potential to get about 250,000 gallons per day flow for the Industrial Park area in South Hingham. Draft letters to the two towns have been prepared. He said he also spoke with the MWRA. He said the Weymouth tie in would probably be the best because the MWRA would likely have the capacity - but numerous infrastructure issues with MWRA and Weymouth exist. He said there has been a change of administration in Weymouth since we last talked to them about possibly accepting flows from south Hingham. Being able to send wastewater to Rockland or Weymouth would be a challenge. He said the Commission has not forgotten the South Hingham Sewer District.

Dr. Shilts added knowledge from the Hingham Board of Health that a large retail complex in south Hingham has a failed septic system and a restaurant along route 53 has a failing system. He said the quicker we can get something accomplished for these important Hingham businesses the better.

Mr. Higgins said the last issue to completing the CWMP is finding a location for a potential decentralized treatment plant and its sizeable soil absorption area. He said this also remains a challenge.

### **New Business:**

- **Hingham Sewer Rules and Regulations, Appendix K**

Dr. Shilts explained that when we go through the regulation update, he will propose adding this Appendix K that describes the various sewer fee scenarios. He said highlighted areas in the draft document are fee changes from what we have now - and he would like the Commission to comment on this at its next meeting.

### **Scheduling**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

**Vote:** Dr. Shilts motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m., seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);  
*members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold*  
*members opposed: none*

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Welch  
DPW Office Administrator

**Documents reviewed during public meeting:**

- *Meeting agenda for 9/24/29*
- *Draft meeting minutes of 7/23/20*
- *Email from Juliet Fulgoni dated 9/21/20*
- *128 Hersey Street - Existing Conditions Plan dated 8/6/20*
- *PVI Site Design - 128 Hersey Street Proposed Sewer Connection, dated 8/31/20*
- *PVI Site Design email dated 8/20/20*
- *Bethany Card, MWRA email dated 4/16/20*
- *Proposed Sewer Connection - 128 Hersey Street Plans, dated 7/14/20*
- *Letter to Colleen & Frank Muzio, 7 Cliff Road*
- *Email from Colleen & Frank Muzio dated 9/14/20*
- *MDesign Services - 7 Cliff Road House Plan dated 7/1/20*
- *Town of Cohasset letter to Mr. Bjorklund, Diamond Development, RE: Sewer Connection - 125 Hull Street, Cohasset*
- *Sewer Connection Plan - 125 Hull Street, Cohasset*