

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2020

Call to Order

Mr. Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:07 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

Mr. Higgins reviewed the posted agenda with the Commission.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the agenda as posted, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);
members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold
members opposed: none

Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2020

The Board reviewed the draft meeting minutes of 9/24/20.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020 as drafted, seconded by Mr. Higgins and VOTED (roll call);
members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold
members opposed: none

Action Items:

- **8 Main Street, Sewer Hook-up Fee Request for Reduction**

Spokesperson: none

Mr. Higgins explained that the property owner has questioned the sewer flows for a 5-chair barber shop (100 g/d per chair) and the town's hook-up fees. He said the Title-5 flow associated with any business comes from the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection (MA-DEP).

Dr. Shilts said sewer fees are part of an established fee schedule, and the Commission does not have the mechanism to amend them for one applicant over another.

Mr. Higgins stated the Commission was able to work with the owner of a beauty shop on Main Street a few years ago to make it easier for them by allowing them to make two or three payments. Mr. Higgins wished the business owner was on the meeting to discuss. Mr. Higgins suggested requiring half up front and the remaining balance paid over two months after opening.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to allow the applicant of 8 Main Street to pay the sewer fee in an installment equal to ½ due immediately and two payments of \$2,000 over two months after their opening; seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);
members in favor: Higgins, Shilts and Harold
members opposed: none

Mr. Zona (the business owner) joined the meeting at 10:43 a.m.
Mr. Higgins explained the Commission had voted to help the barber shop at 8 Main Street by requiring only \$4,000 upfront and deferring the remaining balance of \$4,000 over two months once the shop opens. Mr. Zona believes a barber shops use much less water compared to beauty salons. He understands the town follows MA-DEP Title-5 flows and said he has been in touch with MA-DEP about this standard.

Discussion Items:

- **Hingham Sewer Rules and Regulation Changes**

Mr. Higgins explained Dr. Shilts has recommended additional changes to the current Sewer Rules and Regulations. Mr. Higgins reviewed all proposed changes page by page.

Mr. Higgins asked Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Sylvester to review the change on page 17 about intentional damage. Dr. Shilts explained the change makes it clear that if someone purposely damages the sewer system, that individual is liable for the charges to repair the damage.

Mr. Higgins explained by putting fees in an Appendix (a fee schedule), they can be voted separately from the Rules and Regulations which is more efficient - where fees are more subject to timely change.

Mr. Sylvester questioned why the regulations changed from letters to numbers as he feels it is confusing. Dr. Shilts explained he was making it standard to what MA-DEP uses and other Town departments.

Mr. Higgins said that the Commission will continue reviewing the Rules and Regulations (from page 19) and its Appendices at the next meeting.

Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Vote: Dr. Harold motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11.01 a.m., seconded by Mr. Higgins 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 10/29/20*
- *Draft meeting minutes of 9/24/20*
- *Email from Frank Zona dated 9/30/20*
- *Sewer Rules and Regulations Draft Update, dated 10/8/20*