

Town of Hingham



Hingham Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

Call to Order

Mr. Harold called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present

Stephen Harold, Chair; Kirk Shilts and Clark Frazier

Staff Present

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Liz Welch, DPW/Sewer Office Manager; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Matt Cahill, DPW Assistant Superintendent and Kristin Dziergowski, Hingham Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2021

Dr. Shilts would like the Commission to review the proposed edits that he made to the draft minutes. He believes it makes the minutes better, easier to understand and leaves out some of the personal/negative things that shouldn't be in the minutes. He would be willing to go through and explain why he made the changes. Mr. Frazier believes the minutes are clear. Mr. Harold stated that we shouldn't criticize members or staff in a public meeting and explained that if you apologize he doesn't mind striking the minutes. He said the reason we have minutes is to have a record of the issues we had addressed.

After discussion, the Commission decided to table minutes to be discussed at a further meeting. Mr. Harold added that at any time if anyone feels uncomfortable with anyone or feels harassed to speak up.

Vote: Mr. Frazier voted to table the minutes of 7/15/21 until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

members in favor: Harold, Frazier and Shilts

members opposed: none

Action Items:

• FY2023 Sewer Operating Budget

Dr. Shilts explained that last December Mr. Sylvester told the Commission that he had not yet completed the budget due in part to COVID 19 issues, but believed there was about a 1% difference between the FY2021 operating budget and the FY2022 budget. Dr. Shilts said the Commission voted to approve the FY2022 budget for up to 2.5% over FY2021. Dr. Shilts noted there was actually a 3.8% increase from FY2021 to FY2022.

For the FY12023 operating budget, Dr. Shilts questioned why there is a difference between the full-time clerical position increase of 4% and the part-time clerical position increase of 15%. Mr. Sylvester explained that there was a salary adjustment for all positions this year. All clerical employees have been cross trained and work with sewer customers.

Mr. Sylvester explain that Hull has been unreliable in the past in giving us there rate increase. We finally received information for five years of increases. The year we added in the 15% we didn't have that information. Dr. Shilts said he is pleased with the proposed budget for FY2023 except for the unexplained higher amount being given to the part-time clerical position.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the FY2023 Operating Budget at \$3,632,257 seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

members in favor: Shilts, Frazier and Harold

members opposed: none

- **FY2023 Sewer Capital Budget**

The Commission raised questions about why some of the Capital items were moved to this year. Mr. Sylvester explained that we had several things that we had do so we take the money that we get and do what needs to be done right way. The money goes where needed and then we adjust the budget from there. Walton Cove, South Street, Lewis Court and South Street moved for two years. We plan out what stations need to be done but have to go by need. Greenbush control panel replacement we will hold until next year's budget.

Mr. Sylvester also explained that we have an emergency I&I fund for items like the Lincoln main break. This fund is to use so we don't have to affect the rates. Also the MWRA is looking into a loan grant program to hopefully start up next year.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the FY2023 Capital Budget at \$485,000 seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

members in favor: Shilts, Frazier and Harold

members opposed: none

- **Sewer Use Charge Assessment – FY2022 Preliminary Sewer Bill**

Ms. Welch reported that the FY2022 Preliminary Sewer Bills were processed and are being mailed out on Friday, December 17, 2021 with a due date of Friday, January 28, 2022. The total Sewer Use Charge Assessment is \$1,532,464.37 which will be reported to the Town Accountant.

Vote: Mr. Frazier moved to accept the Sewer Use Assessment Charge for the FY2022 Preliminary Sewer Bill in the amount of \$1,532,464.37, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call);

members in favor: Shilts, Frazier and Harold

members opposed: none

- **Sewer Bill Abatements**

Ms. Welch reviewed with the Commission the sewer bill abatement requests from 12 Summit Drive for \$1,883.28; 71 Fearing Road for \$2,049.60; 13 Baker Hill Drive for \$6,378.49 and 302 Tuckers Lane for \$3,351.79. She additionally explained why these abatements should be considered.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to approve the submitted abatements from 12 Summit Drive for \$1,883.28; 71 Fearing Road for \$2,049.60; 13 Baker Hill Drive for \$6,378.49 and 302 Tuckers Lane for \$3,351.79, seconded by Mr. Frazier and VOTED (roll call);

members in favor: Shilts, Frazier and Harold

members opposed: none

Discussion Items:

MWRA Sewer Representative

Mr. Harold explained that The Select Board appoints the MWRA representative. Dr. Shilts said this is true if we want to have someone other than an elected Commissioner serve. He said he is not able to service since he works full-time in an office. Mr. Harold explained he runs a business and not able to either. Dr. Shilts suggested Mr. Frazier be our MWRA sewer representative.

Vote: Dr. Shilts moved to assign Mr. Frazier to the position of Hingham’s MWRA sewer representative, seconded by Mr. Harold and VOTED (roll call):

members in favor: Shilts, Frazier and Harold

members opposed: none

Superintendent and Supervisor Reports

Mr. Sylvester explained that the Stoddard’s Neck Easements are in place and the engineers are working on test pits. He will report back at next meeting with more information.

Mr. Dempsey explained that we have I&I work coming up. There is a preconstruction meeting on Friday on the Planters Field Lane section of pipe. At the end of every year Mr. Sylvester and he put everything we have done that year together for the Town report. There is a lot of information in the Town Report. We also have a map with locations of what we have done and various projects. Quite a lot of information at our fingertips. Dr. Shilts asked for an I&I work summary at meetings as part of the board package. History of what we have done and current projects as well.

134 Rockland Street

Mr. Harold read letter he sent CJ Boyle, Landmark Recovery, dated December 10, 2021, regarding the proposed 460 bed Healthcare Campus at 134 Rockland Street. The letter denied his request to be put on the December Sewer Commission Meeting to discuss wastewater disposal for long term development plans for 134 Rockland Street as there is no additional capacity in the Weir River Sewer District at this time. He also went on to explain there are no pending applications for this project within the Town of Hingham.

Dr. Shilts asked about the status of the Hingham Sewer Rules and Regulations update and scheduling formal hearing.

Scheduling

The next meeting was not scheduled.

Adjournment

Vote: Mr. Harold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m., 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 12/16/21*
- *Draft meeting minutes of 9/23/21*
- *FY2023 Sewer Operation Budget*
- *FY2023 Sewer Capital Budget*
- *Sewer Abatement List*
- *Letter to C. Boyle, 12/10/21*