

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 9, 2018**

**Carby Street Municipal Office Building, Champagne Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

**Present:**

Sewer Commission members present: Jim Connors (Chair), Tony Antonellis and Frank MacPherson  
Board of Selectmen: Nancy Hyde  
Special Counsel: Dan Bailey  
Staff members present: Todd Korchin, Brendan Ryan and Rich Barry  
Bob Rafferty, Environmental Partners Group

Minutes recorded by Tish Healey

**Opening Statements**

Board Member Tony Antonellis is stepping down from his position on the Sewer Commission; today will be his last meeting. Mr. Connors expressed his gratitude to Mr. Antonellis on behalf of all, for his work for the Town of Westwood. Mr. Connors stated there is "no finer person" than Mr. Antonellis who constantly put the interest of the Town first. Ms. Hyde publically thanked Mr. Antonellis for his service to the Town of Westwood, wished him great success and he will be greatly missed by the Town. Mr. Korchin expressed thanks on behalf of the Department of Public Works for the help and support over the years. Mr. Antonellis level of experience and professionalism will be missed. Also via phone, Mr. Ahearn expressed his gratitude for the hard work of Mr. Antonellis for the Town of Westwood. Mr. Antonellis said that it was great serving on the Sewer Commission and Westwood will always be "his town". He commended the Department of Public Works and the Sewer Department for all their hard work for the residents and the Town.

**Westfield Street/Wilsondale Street Sewer Connection**

There is a sewer connection to Westfield Street and Wilsondale Street than consists of a large section of forced main that services 5 homes. The area was developed in the 90's and a Homeowners Association was to be established to accept ownership of the sewer pipe and any cost to repairs as needed. The Homeowners Association was never established. The Sewer Commission will need to determine who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the sewer pipe.

Mr. Rafferty (Environmental Partners Group) suggested the following steps should be taken before ownership of the pipe is granted:

1. Sewer pipe needs to be inspected- determine if pipe is PVC or HDPE.
2. Pressure test to be conducted on the sewer line
3. Easement review- Does the pipe go through any easements and if so, who are they granted to? Were any structures built on the easements? The Public Works would need access to the pipe through any easement. Per Mr. Bailey, there is no record of recorded easements.
4. Review of individual pumps

Mr. Connors inquired whether the pipe could be inspected via a camera. The 2 inch line is filled with water and would need to be drained prior, so that is not feasible. Per Mr. Connors, the residents have been paying sewer rates and it is the Sewer Commission duty to investigate the proper fix to the situation.

Mr. Wambach (172 Westfield Street) asked how the residents can determine what was accepted and not documented. Per Counsel, usually documentation is determined during a utility title search. Ms. Williamson (122 Wilsondale Street) stated as per their closing 2 years ago, no easements on the property were recorded.

Mr. Bailey suggested a survey of the area to identify easements and if there have been improvements or repairs made to the easements.

Mr. Korchin was approached by a current resident who would like to connect to the sewer line for 2 lots off of Wilsondale Street. Mr. Antonellis stated that if it is an accepted public sewer line, the Town cannot

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block the request. If the residents would like to prevent future development, they would need to develop a Homeowners Association and accept ownership of the sewer line. Mr. Conway (192 Westfield Street) asked if inspection of the pipe would determine whether the line can handle any additional connections. Per Mr. Rafferty, the line should be able to accept additional flow. But he needs to conduct the review, along with an inspection of the individual pumps. A resident asked whether a sewer pipe that has been fine for many years, will now be impacted if additional homes are added to it.

Mr. Frodigh (189 Westdale Street) inquired as to whether this situation has come up before, with records not being documented? The current Sewer Commission was not involved in the initial discussions of Westfield/Wilsondale, but all agenda items are now current and well documented. A resident inquired as to what the engineering review timeline would be. Per Mr. Rafferty, inspection can begin immediately and will last roughly one to two months.

Mr. Antonellis made a motion to accept the sewer line on Wilsondale and Westfield as delineated pursuant to the following conditions: Environmental Partners Group (EPG) would be retained to inspect the capacity, condition and pressure of the existing sewer line and an easement review and survey. The Sewer Commission would grant Chairman Connors the authority to accept the sewer line, pending review of Special Counsel. Mr. MacPherson inquired whether the Sewer Commission should review the report prior to accepting the sewer line. Mr. Antonellis feels it is the best interest of the Town to accept the sewer line as determined, with the conditions as presented. Mr. Bailey stated the Sewer Commission is voting for conditional acceptance, based upon adequacy of the line; availability and survey of easements; and the authorization of the Chairman to execute only after Special Counsel final review. If upon final review of the EPG's investigation report and if any unforeseen issues are revealed, the conditions will not be accepted and a future discussion will be held.

Mr. Connors accepted the motion made by Mr. Antonellis, seconded by Mr. MacPherson and approved unanimously.

Ms. Williamson asked what the process to get the easements properly recorded is. Also, per the sewer plan the easements are shown as sewer and water. Should the residents be contacting Dedham Westwood Water? Mr. Antonellis stated the Sewer Commission will work with Special Counsel for the sewer easements as they impact both water and sewer.

#### **Staffing Review**

The Sewer Department is currently staffed by 2 full time employees and 1 part time employee. The Department is lean in coverage, especially if one full time employee is on vacation and another is sick there may be implications in service. The Director of Public Works would like to add another full time employee and the position can be funded within his current department budget. Mr. Korchin has sent a personnel request to the Town Finance Director, and was instructed to wait until FY 2020 to proceed. Mr. Connors requested that a formal presentation be made to Ms. Dukeman, outlining the department's needs and the budget implications. To be further discussed at a future Sewer Commission meeting.

#### **Other Business that may come up properly before the Board**

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

October 26, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Schedule next meeting- TBD for June 2018**

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 8:54 am by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Antonellis.

Approved:

Date

 2/2/19

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Sewer Commission, Clerk