

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**February 16, 2017**

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am

**Present:**

Commissioners: Jim Connors (Chair) and Frank MacPherson

Staff: Todd Korchin, Rich Barry

Daniel Bailey (Pierce Atwood LLP)

Minutes recorded by Tish Healey

**A. Capital Request for Spring 2017 Town Meeting**

**Phase One-**

The Phase One Pump Station Upgrade bid was awarded to Scherbon Consolidated (Amesbury MA). Phase one will include improvements to the following pump stations: Conant Road, Stevens Farm, Arcadia Road, Sycamore Street, and Brook Street. The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000 as approved at the spring 2015 Town Meeting.

**Phase Two-**

Phase Two will target additional improvements as well as technology upgrades. Our current SCADA system is outdated and replacement parts are becoming costly and difficult to secure. The system, currently housed at the Brook Street pump station, functions as an alarm and reporting system for all 10 pump stations. Rich Barry and his staff can review flows, heights and tank levels at all 10 pump stations from Brook Station or remotely via email or phone. The estimated cost to replace the SCADA system is \$600,000. Mr. Connors inquired whether there were competitors to the SCADA system. Currently, SCADA is the best system for use at this time. Mr. Barry stated that the current computer system is over 12 years old and is outdated. It is difficult to find replacement parts when a portion fails and the repeater signals are weak. Per Mr. Barry, we lost communication last spring, which could have been costly if we were not alerted of any issues at the pump stations.

Mr. MacPherson questioned the benefit of the town to replace the system. Mr. Barry explained it was a safety benefit for the alarm alerts staff of potential problems and allows in house or remote monitoring. Alerts allow quicker reaction time and better utilization of manpower. Mr. MacPherson is in favor of supporting an upgrade to our current system. Mr. Connors would like to review the Sewer Department financial statement with the Town Finance Director, Pam Dukeman first. Mr. Connors is willing to approve supporting the SCADA system upgrade, pending a discussion with the Finance Director. *(Update, Mr. Connors subsequently spoke with Ms. Dukeman and agreed to move forward)*. Mr. MacPherson motioned to approve placing a capital article for Spring Town Meeting 2017 SCADA system upgrade. Seconded by Mr. Connors and approved unanimously. Mr. Bailey will write capital article for spring 2017 Town Meeting to request the purchase of an upgraded SCADA system. The article draft will need to be created prior to the March 6, 2017 Finance and Warrant Commission meeting.

**B. Autumn Drive Sewer Repairs February 2017**

The Sewer Department was notified of a crack in the road on Autumn Drive. The site was excavated and it was determined that a sewer pipe ruptured and was leaking through the crack. Upon further investigation, it was determined that a 14 inch force main ruptured around 2002 and an insufficient repair by the Developer was completed. We were unable to locate plans of the repair work. In order to correct the current problem, the area was pumped clean and a new pipe was cut and installed with proper clamps. The force main was charged and needed to be shut off at the pump station prior to the work being done. Per Mr. Korchin, good management decisions

kept cost down. The Staff determined the issue, developed a plan and documented all work completed. Approximately \$30,000 of emergency repair funds was used. Mr. Connors inquired whether we have recourse against the Developer. The documentation showing the prior repair work must be located prior to any reimbursement being pursued. The Commission wants us to be cautious if this Developer does any further work in town.

**C. Tighe and Bond- Pump Station I/I**

The Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Project was awarded to National Water Main. The project is estimated to cost \$666,000 with \$432,000 to be funded from the MWRA grant program and \$234,000 will be funded from the MWRA 5-year interest free loan. Mr. MacPherson asked if the MWRA ranks cities/towns sewer systems. Mr. Korchin stated that Environmental Partners conducted a study that shows we are at the top of Massachusetts towns.

**D. Next Meeting- date to be determined**

**E. Other Business that may come up properly before the Board**

**Prior Business-**

1. Grove Street (Per Mr. Connor's note in the October 20, 2017 meeting minutes, response to a resident's request/Grove Street sewer discussion) The Sewer Commission was asked by a resident at the meeting to help pay a portion of the costs associated with installing a private sewer connection of forced main pipes to town-installed sewer stubs on Upper Grove Street.
2. A Developer is currently outstanding on a sewer connection payment due on October 1, 2016. The sewer department will send a reminder notice for November 1<sup>st</sup> payment.
3. Follow up with Acura Dealership on proposed sewer connection
4. Stormwater meeting recap

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 8:45 am by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. MacPherson.

Approved:

Date



10/26/17

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Sewer Commission, Clerk