

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

January 31, 2019

Carby Street Municipal Office Building, Champagne Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 am

Present:

Sewer Commission members present: Jim Connors (Chair), Frank MacPherson and Pat Ahearn
Special Counsel- Dan Bailey
Finance Director- Pam Dukeman
Environmental Partners Group: Bob Rafferty and Ryan Paul
Staff members present: Todd Korchin and Rich Barry
Schlossberg LLC- Scott Wolf and Kelly Heard
Residents- David Geisinger and Aimee Cardwell

Minutes recorded by Tish Healey

2019 ATM Capital Request

Mr. Korchin presented the 2 projects the Sewer Department plans to submit for a capital request at the spring 2019 Town Meeting. The projects are outlined as below. Ms. Dukeman stated the Sewer has reserve earnings (unretained) that can be used towards the capital spending and this will not necessitate a sewer rate increase at this time. Also, the current FY20 Budget includes debt ending from a 20 year MWRA bond, for approximately \$155,000. Ms. Dukeman stated that the Finance and Warrant Commission will meet at the end of February 2019 to review warrant articles.

- **Pump Stations Upgrades and Maintenance- \$500,000 capital funding request**
The Town of Westwood currently has 11 pump stations, which includes the addition of the Fox Meadow pump station. Mr. Korchin stated that the Department of Public works has developed a master facilities maintenance plan based on a pump station study that was completed a few years ago. The capital request will be used to address maintenance issues and safety concerns.
- **Inflow and Infiltration (I/I)- \$500,000 capital funding request**
Bob Rafferty and Ryan Paul of Environmental Partners Group (EPG) attended the meeting to present the Inflow and Infiltration plan for the Town. The Sewer Department and EPG created an Infiltration Rehabilitation Program to be targeted in 2 phases. Phase 1 is completed and involved inspection, design and lining of sewer pipes. Phase 1 was started in 2016 with pipe and manhole inspection and was completed in 2017. Phase 2 to 6 will be the inspection of pipes in areas with old pipe materials and in wet areas. In November 2018, 17,000 linear feet of sewer pipe were inspected and EPG found some infiltration. The total daily infiltration observed was approximately 61,000 gallons per day (gpd). This indicates a system in good condition, but can be improved.

The plan is to fix a few major breaks which will require excavation, and a few leaks repaired by lining pipe and manhole repair. The estimated timeframe to begin work is late spring 2019. Mr. MacPherson asked what results the Town should expect once the repairs are complete. Per EPG, infiltration should decrease by approximately 70-80% and sections of pipe and laterals will be lined. If a leak is determined to be from a lateral, the homeowner could be responsible for the repair costs.

Mr. Connors asked if EPG is able to quantify the I/I savings and to present at the next Sewer Commission meeting. EPG stated that currently Westwood's I/I is low, and Westwood was in the top 7-8% best communities for Inflow and Infiltration. Even with positive results, Mr. Korchin stressed that there is always a need for additional I/I review to keep ahead of potential problems, and that the additional pump station operator position is crucial. The request for staffing is included in the FY20 budget request.

Other Information- MWRA funding available for a total of \$2,210,000

Phase 10- \$441,000
Phase 11- \$590,000
Phase 12- \$590,000
Phase 13- \$590,000

Mr. David Geisinger and Ms. Aimee Cardwell residents of 314 Grove Street

Mr. Geisinger and Ms. Cardwell are the property owners of 314 Grove Street. Mr. Geisinger stated that they moved to 314 Grove Street in November 2017, after seeing the property in August 2017. In September 2018, Mr. Geisinger received a sewer assessment bill for \$67,282.39. Mr. Geisinger stated that he was not aware of sewer construction or betterment fees for the property at 314 Grove. A Board Member asked whether the real estate broker or the former homeowner mentioned the completed sewer construction or betterment fees. Mr. Geisinger stated he was not notified by the broker or former homeowner. Mr. Geisinger stated the property at 314 Grove Street was connected to sewer just prior to him moving in, as part of his negotiated sale agreement. Mr. Geisinger is asking for the assessment to be removed. Mr. Connors stated the Summer/Grove Street sewer construction was approved at the 2015 Town Meeting, extensive public meetings were held, and the former resident of 314 Grove Street had attended public meetings.

Mr. Scott Wolf (Schlossberg LLC) said a title search was done on the property as part of the purchase and sale agreement. Mr. Geisinger questioned why there was not a lien recorded for the property. Mr. Geisinger stated he should not be liable for a decision made years before he purchased the property. Mr. Wolf stated that he plans to file an abatement request for 314 Grove Street in March 2019 on behalf of Mr. Geisinger and Ms. Cardwell.

Mr. Ahearn motioned to table any further discussion, in order for Special Counsel to review the request and present any findings to the Sewer Commission. Mr. MacPherson seconded the request. Mr. Geisinger requested that the process be expedited as he has paid a portion of the sewer assessment as received.

Motion to table discussion on 314 Grove Street sewer was approved unanimously.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:01 am by Mr. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. MacPherson.

Approved:

Date

 7/8/19

Sewer Commission, Clerk