

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Carby Street Municipal Office Building, Champagne Meeting Room

Jim Connors called the meeting to order at 8:10am

Present:

Commissioners: Jim Connors, Chair; Frank MacPherson; and Tony Antonellis

Staff: Chris Gallagher

Minutes were recorded by Liz Keefe

Approval of Minutes: June 4, 2012

Minutes were approved and signed by Frank MacPherson

1. Vicki Quiram

- Thank you from the Sewer Commission to Vicki Quiram for all her hard work in her time as Director of the Westwood Department of Public Works.

2. Sewer Rates

- There will be no change in rates for Fiscal Year 2013. This is the 3rd year in a row of level funding rates, following 2 years of declining rates in FY09 rates declined 3% and in FY10 rates declined 5%. The Sewer Commission voted unanimously in favor of no rate increase for FY13.
- Overall consumption was down 8% in FY12 from FY11 which caused sewer billing to fall short approximately \$243K. Non-rate revenue (permit and entrance fees) of \$200K made up for the shortfall. If consumption continues to decline sewer rates may have to be increased in FY14 to cover maintenance costs.
- In the next sewer bill we will include an insert letting residents know this is 3rd year with no rate change following 2 years of declining rates. We will also let residents know that water consumption is down due to conservation and preventative maintenance. This is good for the environment, but has caused sewer billing to decline.
- The Sewer Department will maintain a savings account of \$400K with the remaining \$900K available for use on future phases of lining projects.

3. Sewer Lining Project (CDM)

- As of today August 8, 2012 the sewer lining project by CDM is 95% complete.
- CDM's anticipated end date for this phase of the project is August 24, 2012. Lining is complete, now Layne Inliner is completing grouting the laterals at the actual connection point.
- Problems with project have been minimal. There were a few locations where Layne Inliner had to resteer and cure the pipe due to high groundwater affecting the original curing process.
- Lining of Conant Rd. toward Lorraine Rd. through the easement is being completed the week of August 20, 2012. This portion of the project was going to be completed in the winter months to minimize impact on the

Department has established there will be no impact on the Wetlands and has adjusted the timeline.

- The Sewer Commission would like to thank Bob Angelo and his crew for having this project run so smoothly while keeping up with the day to day responsibilities of the Sewer Department.
- Sewer Department has \$300K approved at Town Meeting for engineering the next phase of the Sewer Lining project. Jim Connors will meet with the Finance Committee in December 2012 about presenting Phase II of Sewer Lining Project at the annual Town Meeting in May 2013.

4. Westwood Sewer Commission Rules and Regulations

- The Sewer Commission requests CDM to provide a scope of work to review the Rules and Regulations prior to the October meeting. The commission has authorized up to \$2,500 for these services.
- The Sewer Commission will finalize Rules and Regulations at October 2012 Sewer Commission meeting

5. University Station

- Jim Connors inquired if the Westwood Sewer infrastructure was equipped to deal with the new inflow from the businesses and residents going in at University Station.
- Chris Gallagher informed the Commission there is approximately 5,000ft of gravity sewer main at University Avenue and Canton Street that flows directly into the MWRA. When the Westwood Station project was first started approximately 5 years ago Bob Angelo and the Sewer Commission at that time conducted research to make sure the Westwood infrastructure could handle the new residents and businesses. They did establish the town can handle the increase in sewer usage. The new development will be smaller than the original design.
- The impact of the University Station development on the Sewer Department is a positive one which will bring additional money to an existing system, which can be used towards maintenance costs.

6. Town Engineer

- Sewer Commission is going to be inquiring to Mary Beth Bernard about the Director of the Department of Public Works and Town Engineer positions and request to be kept informed of the status of those positions.
- Sewer Commission has requested a report comparing what we have spent on engineering costs with BETA and CDM compared to what it would cost for a full-time Town Engineer.

7. Resident Issues

- Jim Connors and Tony Antonellis both received inquiries regarding Grove Street properties 126 and 148. Diane Bradley of 148 Grove Street had owned both 126 and 148 Grove Street at one time. She installed the sewer line for 148 Grove Street running it across the property of 126 Grove Street without putting in an easement. She then sold 126 Grove Street to Bob Swartz. The residents went to court and it was ruled that Diane Bradley (the property owner of 148 Grove Street) had to remove her sewer line from Bob Swartz's property (126 Grove Street). The Sewer Department will need to make sure the new sewer lines are installed properly running down the driveway to the public right of way.

- 189 Westfield Street recently connected to an existing privately owned force main system that runs along Westfield Street and up Ridge Road. An unknown valve closure was causing a back-up to the newly connected 189 Westfield Street. Upon further investigation by the installing contractor and J. Hockman Inc. the valve closure was discovered and the problem was resolved.

Jim Connors adjourned the meeting at 8:42am

Approved:

11/7/12

Date



Sewer Commission, Clerk