

Sewer Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
7:00pm
Central Meeting Room, South
2nd Floor Town Hall

1. Call to order

Tom Patch announced that he was recording this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the Central Meeting Room, South on the 2nd floor of the Hingham Town Hall. Those in attendance included Commissioners Robert Higgins, Ed Demko and Ken Johnson; Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Liz Welch, DPW Office Administrator; Mark Cullings, Project Manager for the Heritage Museum; Suzanne Buchanan, Hingham Historical Society; and Kirk Shilts, Board of Health Chairman.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2016 meeting

Commissioner Johnson made a Motion to approve the minutes as recorded for the January 12, 2016 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Demko and was passed with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:00pm.

3. Sewer Rules and Regulations - Vote to adopt

Commissioner Higgins explained that the Sewer Commission is going to have to table this vote as Town Counsel has informed us that they have some suggested changes and will get to the Commission shortly. We will then post the comments and plan to vote at the March 8, 2016 meeting.

4. 34 Main Street - Connection Fee Discussion and Possible Vote

Mark Cullings, Project Manager for the Heritage Museum, explained that they are upgrading all the utilities as well as getting rid of the cesspool at 34 Main Street. Mark Cullings explained that he was at this meeting to request that the sewer connection fee be waived as they are a private 501 3C organization. He further explained that this project is being done for the benefit of the Hingham Citizens. Commissioner Higgins stated that there are no provisions or precedence in our regulations. Commissioner Higgins stated that the Commission would like to look more into this and would get back to him.

Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor, stated that the connection application has been filled out and he gave F. Riley Construction permission to bring the pipe up to 6 feet before the dwelling until this matter is taken care of. Commissioner Demko thought that the Sewer Commission might have waived the fee for the Hingham Community Center back in 2013. The CPC has granted \$1 million to this \$3 million dollar project.

Tom Patch asked if this connection was budgeted as part of the renovation budget since most contractors would have this into their budget. Tom patch also stated that the Sewer Commission doesn't have the authority to waive just because it is a nonprofit. The law only exempts public government entities from these types of fees. Commissioner Higgins stated that the Sewer Commission would take this under advisement.

No vote was taken.

5. Supervisor's Report

Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor, reported that on January 15, 2016, we received a call informing the Sewer Department that an excavation was taking place without the proper permits at 170 Rockland Street. Upon arrival Steve confirmed that HUB Construction was excavating the trailer park's private sewer service connection, on private property, without filing the proper permits. The job was then shut down until all the permitting was complete. Once the paperwork was in order, the excavation resumed.

The purpose of the excavation was to inspect the in-line check valve to ensure that it was operating properly. As previously documented, the private pumping station at 170 Rockland Street has had an on-going issue since about last summer. The check valve was exposed, inspected and confirmed broken. All of the symptoms that the pumping station had been experiencing since last summer were indicative of a broken check valve. Once the check valve was replaced, the pump station was tested and performed normally, and the excavation was properly backfilled. Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent, stated that they did get the proper permits but they have not yet received an as built.

Commissioner Demko asked if the Sewer Commission was going to see the flow charts monthly. Randy Sylvester explained that there are reports that show the monthly flow and he will have the last two months at the next meeting.

Commissioner Demko stated that at the MWRA meeting in January and there is money available for Towns for I & I. He also explained there was a big thing about the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Commissioner Demko would like to look into having a utility. Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent explained he has gone to seminars about this and the actual permit hasn't come out yet. He then stated that we have budgeted for the Phase II Storm water and whatever is needed at this point and the budget will go up accordingly. The negative side for the citizens is that they consider it another tax. In the future when we find out our requirements we will do what we need to do. Commissioner Higgins believes that this would be a process and would have to go to Town meeting. Randy Sylvester explained that in the seminar the only one that seemed successful was New Bedford or Fall River because of the size of it. It seems to work in a big population or a city but he hasn't seen it work in a Town as of yet. Commissioner Demko will get more information about this permit.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch

Office Administrator