



TOWN OF COHASSET

Sewer Commission

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Sewer Commission Meeting Agenda

DATE: Tuesday, April 27, 2010
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: **Meeting Room 2B**, Town Hall

Meeting called to order @ 6:10 p.m.

Attendance: John Beck, Wayne Sawchuk, Jim Dow, Diane Hindley, Dan Coughlin, Karen Quigley, Ken Henrique

1. **Office Business:**

Date of next meeting: May 18, 2010 @ 5:00 p.m. then invite all Town Owned Pump residents to attend at 7:00 pm.

- Reorganization of the Board-Beck proposal: Jim Dow, Clerk; Beck, Chair; Sawchuk, Vice-Chair, motion carries and vote is unanimous.
- Drain layer licenses-signatures required
- Bianco Construction-drain layer license suspension; Bianco presents pictures of the work site; he hired a sub contractor to do the excavating. Tried to move his machine out of the mud with the anticipation of the rain fall. Dig safe was called, sewer was hooked up. Bianco discusses the events that led to the machine being moved by the wetland resource area. Bianco complied with the request of the ConComm agent to move the hay bales to a new location as directed. The open trench was only two feet deep. Bianco has reloaded the whole area but has not seeded; the homeowner will hire his own landscaper. Everything has passed inspection. Sawchuk asked if the water pipe was sleeved because it's in the common trench. Kevin McRae, resident Engineer concurs that everything was sleeved. Beck speaks to the conditions that led to the suspension and asks Bianco if he is prepared to say tonight that he will meet all of the Sewer Commission Rules & Regulations in the future, to which Bianco replies that he will and that the Town of Cohasset is important to him. Coughlin refers to the Wetland Protection Act and the disregard for the location of the hay bales. The existing septic still needs to be decommissioned. Bianco assures the board that he never leaves a trench open, Coughlin reminds him that it should've been plated or with a higher construction fence. The installed system tested out very well in the end. Jim Dow thinks that this suspension was well learned and the suspension is revoked. Mr. Bianco will retain his drain layer license in the Town of Cohasset.
- F. Riley Construction-drain layer license; request to consider REAP form waiver-snapshot of time, the \$20,000 performance bond will cover any potential that he would have everything seized. Jim Dow agrees that we should waive this requirement for now, Sawchuk concurs. A motion is made to waive this REAP form requirement for the year 2010. The motion carries and the vote is unanimous.
- Sewer Pump fund and distribution log-will be distributed at meeting

- Request for vacation days: May 13, 14 & 17-approved

2. **Veolia Water:**

- a. Monthly Operating Report for February&March: mailed electronically to Commission: the plant ran very well with the exception of the foam over issue, a new bypass procedure was put to the test and worked very well. Some improvements can be made that have been discussed to fine tune the operating procedure for the bypass pipe. The foam may have been related to Ken gauging...he feels they are over pumping at times. He has been consulting with GE/Zenon; there was 2-3 feet of foam. It is a by-product of the process. The pump burped out of the anoxic tank, there was never foam over from the aeration tank. The foam will physically lift off a cover. Sawchuk asks if a fence to protect the foam from overflowing would help. He also discusses the foam from the harbor that could have been related to the foam that was seen in the marsh. Ken checks the anoxic tank daily for foam. With the very heavy rain and high flow it was impossible to keep up and beat down the foam. It was physically impossible for one person to manage the process of the plant. Suggestion to use the effluent plant water to beat down the foam. Beck asks if there are any regulatory issues to use plant water. It sounds like we should've been more proactive and had additional personnel staffed for days like that. There is discussion of the water bill being so high to dewater the foam. If there is a discharge to the harbor should we notify the lobstermen, etc...Karen Quigley asks for another sign by the harbor, fecal matter is minimal but another sign would be beneficial.
- b. WWTP: Noise / Odor / Light Complaints:
- c. Collection System:
- d. Maintenance Fund:
- e. Additional Veolia business:
 - Interon Pump Maintenance and Sewer Connection Inspections proposal
 - DEP report for foam over March-amended report will be forwarded to the Commission.
 - Annual manhole inspection report –Beck points out that this was not on Ken's watch, all reports were submitted with the exception of 07 & 08, he will ask the state for copies. An addendum will be added to 2009, by Oatley and Henrique. Beck has a problem with the 2005 report which states that all manhole covers were inspected and passed, Beck points out that this cannot be true due to recent discoveries and that this is a service that we pay for through our contract with Veolia. According to inspections done recently it directly contradicts the 2005 report. Beck wants it on the record that it is completely unacceptable. Beck did receive an email from John Oatley offering to meet with Commission at their convenience to review such concerns. Beck appreciates the offer and will let him know if this is something that the board would like to do. John Beck wants to know the anticipated schedule to repair all of these leaky manholes. Ken Henrique needs the list of identified leaky manholes as soon as possible so he can begin the repair process. Coughlin will get the list to Ken by next week. Sawchuk would like to clarify the definition of a water tight manhole and asks who will be doing the manhole inspections? This is something in our Veolia contract, are we going to pay Coughlin or will Veolia?

Beck suggests Jim Dow to take a primary interest in the I/I program and the inspecting of manhole covers. The Sewer Commission would like to embark on an aggressive campaign to work on the I/I.

- The flow meter reading from North Cohasset is distributed. The readings were originally set up to a 30 day cycle, the flows normally average on the high side. It is now set for weekly readings which seem sufficient. There is not a remote reader attached to it. Beck says the bottom line is that we need to uncover the source of the I/I. This is all a low pressure area. Beck speculates that the high flows are due to sump pumps; Coughlin thinks it could be a roof leader as well. Coughlin would like to analyze the pump station numbers from Hingham to compare the flow meter read to what is pumping out from the station.
- Ken often finds bolts missing from the Interon units when he responds to alarms and would like to remind Rosano Davis to replace all bolts when putting the cover back on and to once again ask that the service tech leave a door hanger notifying the homeowner that they have serviced the pump.

3. **Enterprise Fund Report:**

Income Statement / Balance Sheet –will be distributed at meeting

4. **Connection Status March:**

- North – 275
- Central –592

5. **Correspondence/Communications:**

- Paul Lualdi, 56 Deep Run-pipe testing concern; plumbing inspector requirements. Coughlin will respond to Lualdi. The inspection or pressure test is done to code.
- Board of Selectmen, Town of Cohasset-South Shore Arts Festival schedule
- Rosano Davis Sanitary Pumping-rate adjustment-service call fee has been reduced and suggests to back bill the homeowner for items that shouldn't have been in the system in the first place. Sawchuk believes that we should most definitely back bill the homeowner. Dow concurs that Hingham back bills the homeowner when it is owner misuse.
- Steve May, Cohasset Water Department-pump station- Veolia will notify the Water Department if a pump station overflows.
- FEMA Assistance-flooding events March 2010

6. **Old Business:**

- 75 Meadow Lane, Steven Ross-see minutes attached March 3, 2009-postponed until further notice at the request of Steven Ross.

7. **New Business:**

- RFP for WWTP operations: Beck has been trying to negotiate with Veolia to reduce their rates. It was a futile process; Beck told them if they do not acquiesce then we would be forced to go out to bid. This is all due to the escalation cost on top of escalation cost. Beck is not enthusiastic about training someone new etc...but it is something that must be looked into. There is one more three year option to exercise with Veolia if the bids come in too high. Beck would like to go out for a labor only contract in this RFP. Theoretically they should get better

prices for chemicals and supplies, electrical supply etc. Veolia did share all of their costs through their accounting system. Any purchases made by the Project Manager at the plant should be exempt from sales tax if the purchase is for the Town of Cohasset. Dow recommends seeking two bids, one labor only and the other labor and materials. It is the fiscally responsible thing to do. The RFP detail will be drafted before May 18th.

- Interon warranty letter (draft)/Town owned pump maintenance fee: Dan will send two inspectors to evaluate the condition of the pumps, he will prepare a proposal that will be billed directly to the I/I account. Prior notification to the homeowner would be helpful; they could be done on Saturdays, etc. This is something already covered through contract between the Town of Cohasset and Veolia.

It is estimated that \$175,000 per year is needed to maintain the town owned grinder pumps. Back bills should be sent to the list of “abusers” supplied by Rosano Davis immediately. Beck will revise this draft letter and identify the 3 items that the board would like to offer as options. A public meeting specifically for the purpose of determining a policy on the town owned grinder pump will be scheduled by next month. Invitations to this meeting will be mailed to all 380 residents.

8. **Coughlin Environmental Services:**

9. **Abatement Requests:**

- 203 Hull Street-approved unanimously

10. **Connection fees due:**

- 8 James Lane, Stephen Cleary: \$270,000 due on July 1, 2010
- 2 Smith Place, 2 Smith Place Realty Development, Inc.: \$285,000 due on July 1, 2010

11. **Open Discussion:**

- Coughlin requests Jim Galipeau contact information to speak with him about the Underground Asset Management Program that Veolia offers.
- The Water Department proposal for billing new sewer customers is reviewed. Their suggestion is that we pay half of all meter related costs. There is agreement that we will not share in the cost of the meter reads, they have to read the meters in order to get their revenues. The Sewer Commission pays a monthly fee for the administrative services related to sewer billing. The Sewer Commission also pays our own portion to the Town Hall financial service as well.
- Beck is looking at a five year forward look for budgeting purposes. The Sewer Commission also needs a five year capital plan for the plant and pump stations by Veolia.
- Dow wants to discuss the situation at 82 Nichols Road. LMH was paid to bring the stub to the property line, why was it not completed and who did the inspection? Who is paying for the repairs? LMH should pay these from the claims accounts. Coughlin will look into it.

- The discussion continues about the Senior Center and it is the intent of the board to keep it in the open. The proposal is to hook the new Senior Center to the sewer. If this is the avenue that the people on the Senior Center committee want to look into further, it will be necessary to have a rational town meeting article to extend the Central District down Ripley Road to the proposed location of the new Senior Center. There is additional capacity so it is feasible. Two pumps were planned for installations at Sandy Beach and at Barnes baseball field, Coughlin says we voted on that because it made sense.
- A vacuum test is the process, moving forward, when we use the tank as a housing unit for the pump.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00