



# TOWN OF COHASSET

## Sewer Commission

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### Sewer Commission Meeting Agenda

**DATE:** January 7, 2008  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Meeting Room 2B, Town Hall

Meeting called to order @ 6:08 pm.

Attendance: John Beck, Vice Chairman; Dan Coughlin, CES; Diane Hindley, Recording Secretary; Richard Nye, Veolia; Ray Kasperowicz

1. **Office Business:**

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 2/18, and Monday 3/24

- ZBA Meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2008 @ 7:45 pm: Sean Cunning will attend, new agreement has already been executed by Bill Griffin and the ZBA should rule in our favor.
- 2008 Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, March 29, 2008 @ 9:00 AM, Sullivan Gymnasium; Article deadline is Monday, January 14, 2008; Annual Report deadline is Friday, January 11, 2008.
- Annual Town Election: Saturday, April 5, 2008
- Outstanding invoices:

**Deutsch/ Williams, Avalon bill:** John Beck responds that we are still not willing to pay for the bills that have been incurred by the ZBA

**Little Giant:** must come up with a plan to pay these bills whether the homeowner may be charged for the third call or so. A decision must be made as to how we are going to address these bills and possibly vote on a definitive plan for the future.

2. **Veolia Water:** Dick Nye is here to elaborate on the operations of the plant.

- a. Monthly Operating Report for November: Attached
- b. WWTP: Noise / Odor / Light Complaints: None
- c. Collection System:
- d. Maintenance Fund: 8k over budget. DC is looking for authorization to have his fiberglass person start working up a new way to prevent the tanks from cracking anymore. The tanks are plastic and they keep cracking. The tank is actually two parts, they are made of different types of plastic and they expand and contract at different rates due to temperature change the tank is constantly moving there are wear points and they tend to crack. Fiberglass is a better material to use because it is not as flexible and does not expand and contract. The contractor is doing some of this work. This should help to further relieve the stress on the tanks. The fiberglass tanks are being proposed as a change order and they will be a permanent fixture at the WWTP. DC has requested a change order from the contractor for approximately 40k to replace these tanks. The contingency amount is approximately \$2 million.

This work will be done as soon as possible because the costs of the cracks are out of control. There has been a request to a manufacturer to fabricate a tank in fiberglass. These are submersible units like we have now.

Proposal is to put a change order in for the Contractor to change the motor and cutters, have contractor remove and package old motor and cutters, replace with a new one from JWC and then get a \$3000 credit. Our net cost is 10k plus the physical labor. It will be a change order, we do have a margin in our budget, and we have some contingencies in our budget. We have to distribute that cost to all of our users as opposed to just the LH users. The new motor was planned to be part of the LH upgrade we are just discussing the new cutters for 13k less the 3k rebate. LH could just pay for the labor and the cost of the cutters can be paid for by our operating budget. Dick Nye says labor should not be a big deal. Separate the cost of the motor and the cutters. We should have D&C construction do this work with a change order. Sean Cunning is approving the purchase of the cutter and has given Dick Nye permission to carry this out.

3. **Enterprise Fund Report:**

Income Statement / Balance Sheet –December: Attached

Operating Budget for 2009 is presented to the Commission, Ray will present this tomorrow to Bill Griffin.

Are we under a contractual obligation to have \$40k for emergency services?

Motion to approve the budget subject to the examination of the Veolia cost which will come out of depreciation and The American Water bill that we pay monthly for clerical services (Brenda) for billing: the vote is unanimous.

4. **Connection Status January:** One new connection: 28 Atlantic Ave

- North – 269
- Central –810

5. **Correspondence/Communications:**

- 2008 Event List for the Town of Cohasset
- Deutsch/Williams: Sewer Project Staging Area
- Robert G. Ralston: 62 Whitehead Road, request for Vacant Lot list in the Little Harbor District: add him to the waiting list (the wish list), secondary list LH added to the Central list. From a legal standpoint, if the pipe goes by the house and there is availability we will go down the list. I will respond to Mr. Ralston in reference to the letter.
- The Planning Board has invited members of the Sewer Commission to attend their meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008 to discuss the new Village District Zoning By-Law
- Thomas L. Gruber: 8 Pratt Court, request for sewer connection for vacant lot: Dan wants to investigate if this is a newly subdivided lot and we will respond that he is on the list. Dates of submission are important.
- Letter to extend Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Veolia: Sean Cunning signed the letter to be mailed.

6. **Old Business:**
- 726 Jerusalem Road- Abatement request from November 2007, further discussion. Motion is made to approve this abatement must submit to Hull for an abatement for us.
7. **New Business:**
- 55 South Main Street, Olympic Texaco Gas Station- Additional sewer connection application.  
Would like to be put on the list for 15 additional connections. Approved to be on the list.
8. **Coughlin Environmental Services:**
9. **Abatement Requests:**
- 17 Pleasant Street- the Water Department has been out there several times, can't find the cause of the leak  
Approved
  - 18 Reservoir Road-2<sup>nd</sup> meter read turned in too late  
Approved
  - 14 Elm Court-requesting an abatement, increase is due to outside watering  
Approved
10. **Connection fees due:**
- 35-39 South Main Street, Sawchuck: \$25,442.94 due on or before March 18, 2008
  - 40 South Main Street, Watson: \$71,500.84 due on or before March 18, 2008
11. **Open Discussion:**
- Osgood/Deer Hill School pump station/repair costs  
There is discussion of the above normal repairs that are not covered in the maintenance agreement with Veolia. Why should the users of the system pay for the cost of their repairs? Look into annual amount of sewer fees and water.
  - 30 Parker Avenue-Carl Christianson  
No response from the certified mail. It is very close to the cut, the thought is that his system is lending to the pollution. We have a public health concern that should be addressed, it is a hazard and we are obligated to take action **PRINT A NEW COPY OF 10/02 letter to PUT IN HIS FILE**
  - 4 Sankey Road-Article for Annual Town Meeting  
A citizen's petition is required or the Sewer Commission can sponsor the Article to request that the Town vote to approve the appropriation of funds to buy back the additional sewer connection assessed to 4 Sankey Road. The Sewer Commission will sponsor this article.

There is discussion of the total cost of the project and the amount we have appropriated and the contingency amount. A rough estimate of budgeted costs is approx 13.2 million. This leaves us with 2 million in contingency money for change orders etc. The state has gone along with 3ft below the rock and large widths. The precedent has been set, we are only 5 ft down and we only have to pay for what is in the trench. It is difficult from the contractor's perspective but we are only paying them for what is in that trench. Deep Run will be paved

as soon as we can. There will be very minimal disruption to the roads after they are paved because of where the stubs are placed. Ray is requesting a running tally of the money and change orders etc. When we get to the end of the job hopefully there will be no surprises.

The Water Dept is proposing to send Mr. Gruber to meet with the Mariner and discuss the current project and giving background on the project. It has been agreed to make 5k available to the Town Manager for costs associated with the project for Mr. Gruber and Mark Brennan. There is an exception made to having Tom Gruber speak with the Mariner. The thought was to have Gruber and Brennan if Bill Griffin requests an independent set of eyes if there is a question in a specific situation.

John Cavanaro is here to represent the owner of 16 Ridge Top Rd/12 Bailey Road. The owner had previously received an exemption from the Commission and has been paying her betterment. The current system must be Title 5 certified and have local Board of Health approval, we will check with Tara. She would like to use her allotted stub for the new sub dividable lot. Based upon all that criteria her system should operate just fine for many years. If all of that pans out we can grant the connection for the new lot because it is technically her stub and she has never used it but has been paying for it. The question that is brought up, do we have the capacity? At this point and time we would have to do a capacity assessment. When an exemption is given the owner gives up the right to connecting in the future. Is there anything in writing that gives her the waiver? The connection is meant for the existing dwelling, we have done this for other people in town, and we have allowed them to swap connections on lots if they have the criteria listed above. Lets say her system fails tomorrow we would connect her because it would be a public health threat but this is not that situation. We have a list of people wanting to connect but that doesn't mean that they are going to pay them. John Beck does not see how we cannot let her use the stub she has paid for. Sean Cunning agrees. Because she has paid Dan feels that and since the stub is there, the question is the vacant lot. It could go the opposite way, the new house could connect to the septic system and the current house could connect to the sewer. If we grant approval the connection would be made almost immediately. There is a stub and she has paid the betterment. The concern is that the septic system is performing at all the standards. John Cavanaro will be back next meeting to be on the agenda with further evidence from the Board of Health that the current septic system meets all Title 5 requirements.

Ray has been doing some research in other coastal communities and discovered that in Rockport they have a sewer "bank" in which they have capacity and if people are approved for connection they must contribute extra money for I/I repairs.

Once again the discussion of illegal sump pumps is brought up. There is a the thought that when a property changes hands we should have the right to inspect the home, or the Fire Chief could do an inspection and have a sump pump added to the check list of items to look at.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:50