



TOWN OF COHASSET

Sewer Commission

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Sewer Commission Meeting Agenda

DATE: Tuesday, May 18, 2010
TIME: 5-7 pm monthly meeting; 7 pm Town Owned
Grinder Pump Special Meeting
PLACE: Auditorium, Town Hall

Meeting called to order @ June 29, 2010

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

1. **Office Business:**

Date of next meeting:

- Sewer pump fund and distribution log: Available at the meeting
- Annual status report from FR Mahony for service calls from Dawn
- A report of Interon grinder pump performance from Veolia

2. **Veolia Water:**

- a. Monthly Operating Report for **April**: flows have returned back to normal
- b. WWTP: Noise / Odor / Light Complaints: None
- c. Collection System:
- d. Maintenance Fund:
- e. Additional Veolia business:
 - Revised 2009 I/I report: emailed to the Commission on 5/3/2010
 - Manhole cover repair update: most manholes looked really well; Coughlin did the inspections; according to the contract with Veolia they are to be inspected on an annual basis, a report is required to correspond with each inspection. According to Coughlin, the last time they were inspected was in 2002. According to a report from the late Dick Nye, the last inspection was in 2005. Currently all manholes are water tight. Since management has changed in the last year Veolia is prepared and ready to move forward. Sawchuk suggests adding another section to the report that would include a sign off with the date noting that each manhole cover is sealed and passed inspection. It is the hope of the Commission that there be a reduction in the I/I with the "re-implementation" of this contractual obligation. Veolia's goal was to complete the manhole inspection process at the time of this meeting.
 - Ken Henrique points to the excessive water usage as reflected in the bill for the most recent quarter. The raptor unit that is being used while the lakeside unit is being repaired uses 60 gpm of water which is twice as much as the lakeside. That is approximately 7-10 thousand gpd. This is another indicator that the plant water system should be resurrected as soon as possible. There is water available from the effluent pumps. If effluent is used for that process it goes back directly to be processed again. Tanks can also store water and be used to feed all of our

plant needs. The effluent is so clean it can be used for almost anything. Ken requests that the repair of the lakeside be expedited; Coughlin agrees and will solicit a change order bid for this work.

- Toxicity testing results are excellent: Coughlin will solicit the state to reduce the testing requirements because the results have been so good. Ken concurs by telling us that all reports have come back 100%.
- The electric panel on the pump at the HS is still on the pole, it has become a safety issue and Ken will put a lock on that tomorrow. If the panel is still live, Ken will contact an electrician from Veolia to disconnect the emergency power from the high school.

3. **Enterprise Fund Report:**

Income Statement / Balance Sheet –**April**: Available at the meeting.

4. **Connection Status April:**

- North –
- Central –

5. **Correspondence/Communications:**

- Ray Tehranian, 132 Atlantic Avenue: Mr. Tehranian is here to apply for a waiver to connect to the municipal sewer system; the property is located outside of the Little Harbor watershed but is still considered part of the Little Harbor expansion. The Board of Health (BOH) has written a letter on behalf of the Tehranian's confirming that the current on-site septic was issued a permit without variance. Upon such approval of waiver to connect Mr. Tehranian would like to transfer his allocated connection at 132 Atlantic Avenue to his lot at 69 Nichols Road. The flow from either property location would be collected through the same Central District and his home on Atlantic Ave is outside of the watershed. The existing on-site septic system for 75 Nichols Road is in the lot at 69 Nichols Road, he has permission to tie any future home built on 69 Nichols Road to that same system since 75 Nichols Road is under the mandate to connect to the new sewer. This is a unique situation; however logical it may sound John Beck is cautious to set precedent. Beck asks if Tehranian is planning to sell the house on Atlantic Avenue to which he replies that it is most likely true but will be further down the road. Sawchuk is concerned that this may be viewed as sewerage a vacant lot. The lot in question has been on the vacant lot list since March 3, 2009 but the application to request a waiver of connection had yet to be written with local and DEP guidelines. One possible flaw in the logic of this process, if the house at 132 Atlantic Avenue is sold and the new owner makes demand to connect to the sewer system since the betterment is paid or being paid. Tehranian suggests that the Sewer Commission create a deed restriction stating that the property not be allowed to connect until such time as determined by the Sewer Commission. Coughlin believes the sewer system is well designed and that capacity may become available in the future with the diligent work of I/I remediation. Coughlin suggests the lots be switched on the waiting list upon recording of deed restriction which will read that if and when capacity becomes available the property may connect upon notification. A motion is made that the board accept 132 Atlantic Avenue waiver for connection application and approve connection at 69 Nichols Road with deed restriction in place. Both properties

will receive betterment assessment. Coughlin will review deed restriction. The motion carries unanimously.

6. **Old Business:**

7. **New Business:**

8. **Coughlin Environmental Services:**

9. **Abatement Requests:**

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:**

- Pamela Truesdale, Division of Municipal Services, DEP: a meeting was organized by the BOH and Michael Buckley. The objective was to find a way to assist homeowners with the costly repairs of their failing on site systems and possibly offer a loan from the town to the residents who are not able to pay for the cost to connect to the sewer system. The repayment of the loan would be set up as betterment; it would be in addition to the betterment they will be assessed for the overall project. Coughlin points out that there was an article passed at Annual Town Meeting 2004 with similar enabling legislation for the Sewer Commission. Coughlin will confirm this with the BOH.
- Town owned grinder pumps: Beck proposes assessing an additional fee annually to each property with an Interon unit. The fee would be held in a separate account to be used specifically towards the repair, maintenance and eventual conversion of the pump. Beck says that we can commit to this program by collecting the \$175,000 per year. When the betterment period is over in 2020, the pump ownership will be turned over to the homeowner. Coughlin points out that the original estimate for the retro-fit has increased by \$200 due to additional electrical work. Jim Dow speaks to what the conversion practices in Hingham are and how they turn over the ownership to the homeowners once the conversion is complete. The Hingham Commission agreed to turn over the units with a conversion so it was a benefit to the homeowner. There was a \$1200 average cost per house for service calls. Trouble calls initially were abundant until the implementation of a 3 strike policy, now they see a significant reduction in calls.

Jim Dow asks if the other board members have given any consideration to the Veolia proposal which included a third person trained for the grinder pump service calls so it would no longer need to be outsourced. The Veolia proposal did not include parts but did include inspectional services along with service call response which could translate into big savings. The third person could do many other things rather than just service calls, this could reduce the outside engineer costs as well.

Discussion on the subject will continue as a portion of this meeting is intended for town owned grinder pumps only and residents with the pumps on their property have been invited to attend the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- RFP for Veolia: will address scope changes. Beck acknowledges the current contract that includes an escalation which continues to grow. Contract operations and solicitations schedule are distributed. Jim Dow will act as the lead role in working with Coughlin on the RFP. Sawchuk asks what the cost of this process will be to the Commission to which Coughlin estimates approximately \$10,000. The RFP will go through the Town Managers office. A motion is made by Beck that we go forward with the bid solicitation package structured as discussed before, labor only for one bid and the other will include all. The Sewer Commission reserves the right to reject any offer. The motion carries unanimously.
- Jim Dow discusses the I/I work as directed by John Beck. He spoke with John Oatley of Veolia today about the Underground Asset Management Program that his company offers. The estimated cost to implement such a program in Cohasset based upon the linear footage in our collection system would be \$10,000. The Sewer Commission has already expended almost \$200,000 from the \$1 million dollar I/I Article. Coughlin objects to the Veolia estimate saying that the town has over 26 miles of gravity pipe and doesn't think that they can offer us the best price. Jim Dow request all of the reports for I/I work that CES has accomplished up to this date.

Meeting adjourned: