



## TOWN OF COHASSET Sewer Commission

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### Sewer Commission Meeting Agenda

**DATE:** January 8, 2007  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Meeting Room 2B, Town Hall

Meeting called to order @ 6:00 pm.

Attendance: Dan Coughlin, Engineer; Dick Nye, Veolia; Jim Galipeau, Veolia; Diane Hindley, Recording Secretary; Ray Kasperowicz, Secretary; John Beck, Vice Chairman; Sean Cuning, Chairman

1. **Office Business:**

- Date of Next Meeting: January 17, 2007 @ 6:00 pm and February 12, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2007; deadline for the submission of articles is Friday, January 12, 2007.
- Annual Town Election is Saturday, April 7, 2007
- Diane's vacation request for February 20-23. Approved unanimously.
- Approval of December's minutes: **will look at later**

2. **Veolia Water:**

- a. Monthly Operating Report for December: Not available at this time.
- b. WWTP: Noise / Odor / Light Complaints: 10 years of no noise complaints.
- c. Collection System:
- d. Maintenance Fund: Dick hand's out, attached.

No report complete, numbers all look good, within permit limits according to Dick Nye. Dick announces that in 10 years there have been no noise complaints. Update on Cohasset Harbor Inn, flow meter, fairly consistent. The meter is calibrated. Sean would like to know if we are testing for salinity of water. There is discussion of collection system and salinity results. Sean suggests testing for moon tides in regards to the salinity to derive any useful information.

John Beck wants clarification of extraordinary items on the R&M budget in contrast to regular items. There is some discussion of pump failure, is it a design issue? Dan Coughlin explains reasons for possible failure. Dick Nye continues to explain the operation of these pumps. The plant has three pumps. Ray wants to know if the pump is new or replaced. There is discussion of the warranty on the pump which is approximately one year of which the year is close to being up. John Beck again questions the design of the pump. The Commission questions if the pumps are staying for the upgrade. Veolia reps answer yes. Jim Galipeau sheds some light on the subject. Failure curves on equipment are discussed. Bearings on the pumps are worn not corroded states Dick Nye.

Dick Nye hands out a proposal from Service Master in the event of an overflow and discusses the overflows and costs that are incurred because of this.

Dick discusses personnel issues at the plant. Yvonne is still out of work and Dick has cancelled his surgery. Dick is scheduled for surgery on January 25<sup>th</sup> and he is going to go ahead with the surgery, due to the nature of his illness. Dick will be out for approximately two weeks. The new person is in place, he is excellent and seems to be adapting well to the plant. If Dick can drive he will be there. Approximate recovery time after the two weeks is 4 weeks. Jim Galipeau states that coverage will come from other plants. Sean will go to the plant and introduce himself to the new plant operator, Erik Borgendale

Jim Galipeau presents numbers as requested by the Commission at the last meeting. He states that he would appreciate keeping these numbers as private as possible due to the fact if the Commission goes out to bid Veolia would be at a disadvantage to be part of the bidding process. The Commission reviews the utility costs and can now see where the charges are derived from. There is discussion of locked in utility rates that will continue for two more years. Ray wants to discuss overhead costs. Jim Galipeau explains the standard gage typically used through government agencies. John Beck questions salary increases of Veolia managers. It is roughly 33% in a 4 year period. Jim Galipeau explains that this is due to the value of plant managers, driven by the market. The Commission thanks Jim Galipaeu for providing this information.

Included in this handout are Veolia's Scope of Services and Concept of Operation as requested by the Cohasset Sewer Commission last month.

3. **Enterprise Fund Report:**  
Income Statement / Balance Sheet – December: Attached

| The Commission reviews the Enterprise Fund reports. The Commission would like this report to be in accrual format. The administrative assistant will ask Mike Buckley to change the format. One column pure cash basis (deposits and expenditures), other column could be bills that we haven't paid. Revenue side, if there is one month without revenue he could lowball it (if there is only five months of revenue and we really need six). We need the sixth month of billing included in reports.

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| Reviewing North Cohasset bills and Hull bill which was just signed for approval to be paid. Checking the amount on the Hull bill, the Commission notes that if we include that bill the report will make more sense.

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| There is a suggestion for Ray to create a spread sheet that the administrative assistant will fill in with current figures. There should be enough detail in the budgeting that Ray does to translate it over to make the numbers easier to decipher.

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4. **Connection Status December:** 568

- North – 0
- Central – 0

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5. Correspondence/Communications:

- Deutsch/Williams – Dismissal of the appeal for the King Taylor Cohasset, LLC v. Cohasset Sewer Commission: Review of letter by the Commission, letter attached. Ray discusses a meeting he attended with the ZBA in December.
- Draft of the annual report of the Office of Emergency Management
- Project approval certificate addressed to William Griffin. Letter attached. John Beck would like to know if Dan Coughlin has any feeling for the NPDES permit process. Dan responds “no” that they are waiting to see some Mass Bay information before they actually draft the ~~permit, permit~~; he states that he knows that they are in the process of drafting the permit because they have been asking him questions directed towards the project, Dan is hoping it will be by the end of January. The big question is “What are the ambient nitrogen levels?” Dan would ~~like - the~~ like the EPA to draft the NPDES permit so everything else can come together. There are certain aspects of the permitting process that have to wait until NPDES permit has been issued. There is a 21 day public comment period once the draft is issued. First step with the DEP to move forward in the bidding process. Dan is addressing this with the Board, discusses the data and states the positive feeling he has about the permitting process. Dan wants the EPA to issue the NPDES permit. Other things are “hanging” waiting for this approval. Dan is hoping the process is complete by the end of the month. The Board asks Dan if the NPDES permit is tying up the MEPA certificate, Dan states that it is not. He continues on to state that they are independent of each other. Dan feels that the MEPA certificate will be issued by mid February. Discussion of MBE and WBE, draft informal contract to establish certain conditions in the SRF funding program.

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6. Old Business:

- Evergreen Builders-Mike Buckley’s request for a written agreement between the builder and The Town of Cohasset.  
We still have a check sitting in the Treasurer’s Office made out to Evergreen builders to pay for their portion of doing the work to connect ~~to~~ to the municipal system. There seems to be a legal battle going on between the neighbors. Genellos are supposed to be granting an easement from Evergreen builders on the property. The Town of Cohasset needs to have the easement to the Genellos property before we release the check to Evergreen Builders.
- 24 and 28 Atlantic Avenue: The Treasurer would like to know if the Commission will allow an apportionment of the betterment or will you ask for it to be all paid at once? Pay to the present in one lump sum? Department of Revenue would have to answer this. Ray spoke with Gary about this. ~~The Board is discussing~~ decides that what they want to do, know if he should Should the homeowner pay the amount to catch up to current time-time? It would be in the homeowner’s interest to pay the amount assigned because if we assign the current amount it could be greater than the amount assigned in 2001. The Board decides that in order to keep things as uniform to everyone else they feel that he should pay the amount to catch up to the current time, it is up to the

Treasurer to decide if he is allowed to catch up to current times or pay the whole amount. Motion is made, the vote is unanimous.

- Update for 175 Border Street, Sean will call Rick Hucksam for this. The owner must agree to put a lien on the Cohasset property. Diane will email Sean
- 808 Jerusalem Road: Sent certified letter; copy enclosed; no response. The letter has been seemingly refused. Discussion of how we can handle this. Copy of the ~~to~~ letter to Sean so he can ~~to~~ pay a ~~visit~~ visit.
- 50 Stockbridge Road-No show, will continue, was expecting someone from from Rosano davis Davis.
- 35 Pond Street-Connection fee still outstanding. Diane will call Chris McKenna to pay-remind him of the ~~for the~~ connection fee that is -due. We are to check with the Building Department and see if a building permit has been issued. Ray wants to complete the loop, once a sewer connection has been issued, he would like letters to go out to the Treasurer's Office, the Assessors office and to cc Brenda at the Water Department, this will give indication that money needs to be collected. Then when the property transfers, the lawyer will receive a municipal liens certificate.

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#### 7. New Business:

- Abatement request for 110 Black Rock Road-No second meter is evident. If we cannot collect it back from Hull then we should not abate it. Sewer Commission declines the abatement. The Cohasset Sewer Commission has already paid for it and cannot get the money back from Hull. If they want to get credit in the future they must install second meter for watering.
- Abatement request for 44 Howe Road- Once again, we have already paid for this, can we go back to Hull to get those charges abated for the Town of Cohasset. Commitment 1 we have already paid for. Commitment 2 would be November. If we talk to Hull, and come in with abatements. It will be sSigned based upon the contingency of approval for abatement from the Town of Hull. The Board decides to tTemporarily pass on these abatements. Were there two meters on this property? We need a starting number, was it zero?,- To be continued until next meeting.-
- Discussion of abatement request for 22 Pratt Court. Elizabeth Laas is present to state her case. Discussion of the fact that she has been billed since 2002 for sewer and has not connected. Acknowledges receipt of certified letters demanding that she connect to the municipal system. Certified letter from Dr. Godzik in regards to the current operating system. John Beck asks about a grinder pump, Dan supports the thought of a grinder pump. John explains the operation of the grinder pump. Mrs. Laas discusses the design of her home. Discussion of grinder pumps vs. gravity system. We will continue abatement process once we have concrete numbers until next meeting.
- Draft: Article 1-submitted by Dan Coughlin," the safety net article. Ray wants to know when this is going to print. We submit the drafts by the January 12, 2007+2<sup>th</sup>. We must approve town eounselscounsel's final version before submitting to Town Meeting. John Beck acknowledges that tThis article is to reserve aplacea place in case bids come in higher than we appropriated. It can be withdrawn if needed. Dan Coughlin recommends adding a contingency offer on top of this because of possible miscellaneous construction issues, legal, engineering, change orders, etc. Paving will not be in this contract so this is a separate piece of the pie. The Board will have time to

rationalize all of the factors before town meeting. The original article was separate now it is being treated as one entity; this is a combined project which will enable us to combine the funds as well, not to have three separate accounting processes going on. We can throw it away if necessary. Dollar amount will be determined at a later date. Move article as worded, second by Sean. Vote is unanimous. Diane will send to Bill via email, digital version.

- Contract Amendment #2/ Town of Cohasset and Coughlin Environmental – Discussion of attached amendment. I/I Article. Disbursement schedule is attached as requested by Michael Buckley. Motion made to approve Amendment #2, vote is unanimous. Diane is to deliver signed copy to Bill Griffin.
- Contract Amendment #3/ Town of Cohasset and Coughlin Environmental- Bidding Engineering Services packages this will start the engineering services package that would that will be in the SRF funding package.package. We already have the project approval certificate. Included two separate bids-, the treatment plant and the expansion itself. Once again, disbursement is included as per request by Michael Buckley. Motion to approve, vote is unanimous. Diane is to deliver signed copy to Bill Griffin.

#### 8. Open Discussion:

Dan brings up the cost escalator factor. Ray wants to know where the cost thing was going. Dan is still working on this with someone.

Discussion of piping etc.

Copy of all contracts with Dan Coughlin, requested by the Board.

The Board questions Dan Coughlin, would like a breakdown of costs relating to installing and monitoring flow meters. There is discussion of the placement of the flow meters. Flow meters are around the marsh area at the plant. Ray requests a diagram of where the flow meters are placed, Dan replies that he will email Ray Kasperowicz this information. Ray asks if we have been billed for this, Dan replies “yes” that on the most recent bill he has submitted there is a charge for \$12,000 consulting services, a good portion of this is basically this first allocation through January. Dan will supply the Commission with the breakdown of estimated charges from Coughlin Environmental Services.

John Beck would like to discuss Water/Sewer meeting: John has attended these meeting and everything was very general. John would like to get down to the nitty gritty of the matter and says it sounds wonderful on the surface but is it cost effective for the community. John would like to see an agenda.

The Commission analyzes data from homeowners that call for service calls. Who is responsible for the payment? Readings are from the years of 2004-2006. There is an average of \$800 per year per household, \$370,000 worth of charges for the year, possibly a year’s revenue from the North district. For example, one household has four service calls which are probably attributable to the homeowner’s improper use of the pump. John Beck questions why Little Giant is even sending us an invoice when the whole system is breaking down based upon the description of service calls. 589 Jerusalem Road has over \$7,000 in service calls alone. This is

a condo complex. What should be done at the end of the warranty period? Possibly send a Form letter as a point of information to the homeowners, discussing total cost that we've incurred and that shortly they will own the pump. Life cycle of the pump is 7-8 years, but we have a warranty for 10 years.

Dan recommends another mailer with proof of past problems, basically just something to notify the homeowners of the current status of their grinder pump. Ray is not recommending any action but just wanted to provide us with data for informative reasons.

Escalation index:- John Beck votes that we adopt the Boston ENR -Engineering and Construction-construction cost index, it's something -blah, blah, bla more representative, h, check recording, the question is what shop. It's 135% Over-over a six yaer year period of time. John make sthe motion to calculate costs, effective tonight. John Beck moves that we adopt the Boston construction cost index based upon the Boston ENR, basis for calculating escalated costs. Motion is moved, vVote is unanimous.s-

This will be effective starting tonight. This does not include the property at 24 Atlantic Ave.

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Meeting adjourned @ 8:40 pm.

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