

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

**Meeting Convened:** 4:00

**Sewer Advisory Board Present:** Jeff Kristal, Josh Goldstein, John Best, Jeff Pratt, Melinda Loberg, Dan Seidman, and Tomar Waldman

**Audience Present:** Paul Ernst (WW) James Stinemire (WW), Bob Rafferty (EP), Mark White (EP), Jon Snyder (Town Treasurer), Jay Grande (Town Administrator) and Ray Tattersall (DPW)

Melinda Loberg: How many of us has been sworn in – do we have the ability to vote today?  
Everyone has been reappointed but only 4 are sworn in – enough to vote.

**Approval of June 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to accept – Jeff Kristal, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Josh Goldstein. Unanimously approved.

**Update on latest meeting with DEP – Mark White:**

Mark White: We are working towards developing the scope of work for the pilot program of the leech fields – working how we set the pilot study up and what kind of data evaluation needs to be done to support it. DEP's biggest concern is that we don't flood the fields. We're evolving & finalizing the scope of work now looking for approval that will cover the State Road District flows up to 140K gallons a day but we're are going to be testing the leech fields to see if they can hold a whole lot more.

John Best: So you could ask for more when we needed without retesting?

Mark White: Exactly.

Josh Goldstein: To do that you need to flood them with potable water?

Mark White: We're going to be dividing the leech fields into thirds.

Jeff Kristal: So what are we going to be testing it for 180K?

Mark White: If we could get 200K or more that's what we want to do.

Jeff Kristal: Is there a time that we should go and ask for additional flow – if after 2 years after testing can we still ask for additional flow up to 200K . . . are they going to require us to do the testing again?

Mark White: I don't think they will. When you go back and ask for more that's when you need to demonstrate what the nitrogen loading characteristics to Tashmoo and the Lagoon – you can't do that analysis now because we don't know where the wastewater is coming from so we can't say how much we are increasing or reducing the nitrogen load into the water table, but we will know what the capacity of the fields will be. Timeline - scope of work to DEP maybe this week, there's some work that needs to be done in the fields to set them up – finding distribution boxes. We're going to need to do some field work to find them, excavator, etc. There's some are some shallow wells on all three we're trying to set this up so we do the actual testing immediately after Labor Day, if not sooner. Ultimately, we want to do the testing which takes 6 weeks at different flow rates over time, analyze, give to DEP, and get approval before we go for approval at next year's town meeting. DEP is all behind us getting the 140K for State Road.

Melinda Loberg: They're not likely to give us a permit for more capacity than the plant has.

Mark White: If we get the original ground model - pretty inexpensive. The MVC may have it developed when you were doing the plant – should be able to get a hold of it.

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

**State Road Sewer District – cost sharing, tie-in policies: continued discussion:**

Jeff Kristal: Josh brought up a great point last meeting . . 100+ people on the system now paid 50% and the town taxpayer paid the other 50% so what is their involvement in creating the State Road Sewer District . . just those 100+ - how is that portioned out?

Dan Seidman: They wouldn't pay anything – that wouldn't be fair...

Melinda Loberg: As taxpayers they would be part of the 50% town share.

Jeff Kristal: But didn't they pay 50% in their taxes too?

Melinda Loberg: They paid their share of the 50% that taxpayers paid.

Jeff Kristal: So, Josh paid 50% of the system then paid his share of the 50% of the taxpayers.

Jon Snyder: 1<sup>st</sup> round Josh paid 50% of his share as a user, then he paid his tiny share of the other 50% for the taxpayer.

Jeff Pratt: Is there a reason we wouldn't do it the same way for the new district as for the initial customers?

Melinda Loberg: I have heard other variations of this model and I don't think this group has come up with a final.

John Best: If this is very similar in motivation – I would say 50/50 – why not? It worked last time. If the motivation for sewerage is different – not because they need it but because it the densest populated year round area in that watershed. You would just be hitting them with a fee that the people who aren't in that neighborhood with a 3 acre house on the same watershed wouldn't have to pay 50%. I think State Road is pretty parallel to downtown so we could use the same formula.

Jeff Pratt: I think it stays the same for State Road.

Melinda Loberg: We've heard from 2 people for the 50/50 split.

Dan Seidman: I make a motion to do the 50/50 formula for the new State Road Sewer District.

Jeff Pratt: 2nds . . .

Melinda Loberg: Ok, discussion.

James Stinemire: As a taxpayer if we're going with the 50/50 split – I'd like to see sewer on Skiff Avenue.

Jeff Pratt: State Road is just the next district it doesn't mean we are done.

Jon Snyder: I think we are many years away from adding another sewer district – let's keep focus on State Road.

Melinda Loberg: Any further discussion about the vote on the floor for 50/50 split?

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

Melinda Loberg: Next we need to talk about the other policy – tie in policy – does everybody have to tie in or is it optional?

Dan Seidman: We should learn from the last time this was done & it should be mandatory because we have a whole pipe that's basically dry on one street and it makes no sense. Most of these are businesses, I don't know if we have to offer assistance for any low income on that road but I think we should make it mandatory at that time.

John Best: An option, Edgartown did give the average septic system a 15 year life option to tie-in but no one could upgrade, only tie in.

Jeff Kristal: So this is a perfect time to not make a decision but invite some of the owners in to see what they have to say. Would be great to listen to the people on the system.

Josh Goldstein: I think that's a BOS meeting.

Jeff Kristal: Then we should be there to hear them out before a 50/50 gets to town meeting to be voted on. It needs to be presented to them as a benefit.

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Dan Seidman: Don't Joe deBettencourt and the SBS have something in their MVC permit that that says they don't have to tie in until the sewer line is installed? Or do they have to tie in when it runs by?

Josh Goldstein: They have to tie in.

Melinda Loberg: One of them has just contracted for one of those piloted septic systems. They wrote a letter asking when the line would be coming by.

Jeff Pratt: Both those properties were given permission from the BOH for a Title V based on the condition that they tie in.

Melinda Loberg: They were asking Paul for a more accurate timeline.

Jeff Pratt: If you are going to ask State Street properties to tie in but you did not demand that Main Street Properties tie in and they still don't have to, this could cause problems.

Jeff Goldstein: Are there any loans available for tie-in – 0-low interest?

Mark White: There were, I can check into it.

Melinda Loberg: Their flow on the sewer will be based on their Title V flow.

Jeff Kristal: For these people to understand that they can build affordable/employee housing but if we force them to tie in – your flow is based on your Title V.

Mark White: Flow is all based on your Title V.

Jeff Kristal: So, he can't expand/add an apt?

Melinda Loberg: There is also a checkerboard approach to sewer . . .so that you can skip over some properties not requiring them to tie-in.

Mark White: Mandatory connection was not required. But property owners had to sign in blood if they wanted to sign up or not. If you said no – you're out – never.

Josh Goldstein: So they pay not betterment or anything until property sold?

Mark White: New owner may want to sign up then you have to figure out – it is a quagmire but if you say if you buy in now and you could do X housing and there's capacity and you said no initially. . .

Jon Snyder: The way that I heard it is that the capacity will be wiped out for those properties based on their Title V today – which doesn't leave us room for apts or anything.

Jeff Kristal: right, but with this it would give us some room . . .

Dan Seidman: Until the next person comes in . . .

John Best: We did not base it on water usage, we based it on Title V.

Melinda Loberg: So there's a potential for them to expand without additional flow.

John Best: So if we got a sense from the State Road community that X amount did not want to tie in in the foreseeable future – we would get a good idea of what the flow would be and if it takes 10 – 15 years for them to tie in we're probably going to see expansion by then.

Jeff Kristal: We have an area that's designed, that's too small– why don't we go back to the plant expansion as the second phase then we would have more than enough to hook everyone up for the current Title V plus affordable housing flows they want.

Mark White: You do have the option – there's nothing that says you can't build in allocations for flows you don't have right now? The amount is up to you . . . remaining allocation is up to you (museum, affordable housing, et.) but you need to think through cost allocation again.

Jeff Kristal: How many businesses are in the district we would be tying in?

Mark White: 72 developable lots . . .67 are occupied

Jeff Pratt: To this date our #1 challenge is not enough flow – we created a system smaller than what we need . . . we are nowhere near our 104K. I think we should go back in and look at the tie-in policies.

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Jeff Kristal: Let's look at the bigger picture – if the waterfront expands we are up to capacity. If we want to progress with the tie-in policy, and have the BOS hold several meetings with property owners I'll make a motion - we will progress the agenda item – probably 3 meetings.

Melinda Loberg I think it's a terrific idea – I make a motion to hold informational meetings for the parcel owners in the State Rd. Sewer District.

Jeff Pratt: 2nds.

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

Melinda Loberg: Meetings will be held and you will all be invited to participated. How many betterments do we have now that are not tied in? (holding flow for)?

Paul Ernst: 22

James Stinemire: Tisbury Printer, EduComp, Sports Haven, Movie Theater, Bowl & Board

Jeff Kristal: 140K is not a large number – afraid it's going to run out with expansion . . .

Melinda Loberg: I'd be interested in knowing when we are going to build that lift station & the pipe that goes to that because we have 2 properties asking us when they can tie in.

Jeff Kristal: Why would they be allowed to tie in earlier and join the Main Street Flow?

Wait till we get to 140 flow.

Melinda Loberg: We made promises to the MVC that they would be able to do that. Over several years we have allowed through Town Meeting vote other properties to be added to the existing system.

Jeff Kristal: Why don't we do both at the same time – put the pipe in the business road and look at additional capacity at the plant. If it's going to take us 3 years to get up and running 140K to include the business district why don't we look on getting some pricing on expanding of the plant – therefore these people aren't tying into a system that's already maxed.

Mark White: High Point Lane Force Main Sewer that's designed, part of the project ongoing out here, we have approval from the DEP to move forward and we are ready to go to bid.

Melinda Loberg: So as far as beginning the process of expanding the plant itself there is a Waste Water Planning Committee that has been studying the global issues and have looked at sewerage vs. other methods and it was that group that decided that this was the best District, next to the plant – any further the cost balloons . . . .If we feel strongly to change course we need to have a joint discussion about it.

Jeff Kristal: How much would these 2 places need to hook up?

Mark White: minimal – less than 3K

**Continued discussion on separation of WW and DPW Departments:**

Dan Seidman: After the November meeting I asked for detailed diagram, how it works, detailed allocation between departments – do we have anything like that?

RayTattersall: Basically what happens is Wastewater does what wastewater does and DPW does what DPW does, there are times when wastewater needs a hand with things and DPW needs a hand . . .we just share resources when we need to.

Melinda Loberg: Equipment?

Ray Tattersall: Yes, it's not a big deal since we share the whole building.

Jon Snyder: When an employee works for the other we do allocate that employee from their home employee to the other department.

Dan Seidman: Do you allocate the equipment?

Paul Ernst: No, it's not allocated though, if these guys do the plowing during the day, we pay for that, it's 8 hours of plowing then after that it's on Snow & Ice.

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Ray Tattersall: Recently when they had to clean the tanks, we had 2 employees up there with them all day . . . it's kind of a trade off – we just help each other when we can.

Jeff Kristal: Having had a conversation with the Water Commissioner, there's been discussion about how do we get the commission to take over the wastewater plant and right now they are taking over billing in about 5 months – they are already reading the meters. They are 2 years away from even being able to comprehend taking over the wastewater. It would help them to take over if there was a clear line separation from the DPW. I think the taxpayer wants clear definition that his money is going to them and not to other things.

Ray Tattersall: The only thing I would say is if our guys help them we would have to bill them and I don't think that makes sense.

Jeff Kristal: I think these guys need to work with Jay and figure out the shared manpower and work that all out.

Jeff Pratt: It seems the more complicated issue to solve is, is the administrative staff of the DPW – billing. A charter review to push to not slice departments into smaller autonomous groups but rather to combine them. I'd like to hear what Ray & Paul have to say, Ray – you're saying it's not a big deal . . . Paul?

Paul Ernst: Where I think it's messy is the different people going into the budget – it's not transparent or predictable.

Ray Tattersall: If it's done during the day, there is no record keeping – they ask Paul – if they don't have the time to do it, don't help.

Jay Grande: The priorities are not congruent between the two organizations – because their priorities are different. They both have their functional areas that they are working on and that when you can join things together that is great, but also this synergy isn't what you'd expect. Where is the stronger relationship? Is it Wastewater with Public Works or Wastewater with Waterworks? Finance does set up some percentage for the enterprise fund.

Jon Snyder: It is assessed to the enterprise fund – we do spend time accounting for each enterprise fund – analyzing and helping.

Melinda Loberg: I think the heads of these departments and Jay and Jon need to meet to address the finer points and then come back to us with your thoughts.

**Next Meeting – September 12, 2018@4pm: approved**

**Motion were made to adjourn at 5:30 by Melinda Loberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tomar Waldman  
Unanimously approved.**

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018

This document is the official Minutes of Tisbury Sewer Advisory Board held on July 18, 2018. These minutes were presented and duly voted and approved by the Advisory Board at the Open Meeting held on

---

Chairperson

Date

Town of Tisbury  
Sewer Advisory Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018