

Sewer Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 11, 2020

Attending: Jeff Pratt, Josh Goldstein, Melinda Loberg, Nancy Gilfoy, John Best, Christina Colorusso

David Thompson, Jeff Kristal, Jon Snyder, Christine Flynn

Minutes: There was one edit in the Feb. 5th minutes that has been sent out to the members.

Approval of Feb. 26th minutes is postponed until our next meeting.

Chief Operator's Report on Operations and Finances:

- Budget – expenditures to date. Appears to be right on target or ahead of target.
- Roll-off container for grit screenings for the new headworks – possibly could be paid out of the USDA grant monies as part of the headworks improvement.
- Copier lease – one category will be eliminated in next year's budget as the leases are consolidated.
- Billing municipal buildings – still under discussion. Water Dept. bills town buildings for water. We need to examine this further and determine a policy. Josh Goldstein urges wastewater department to create draft bills so that we know the extent of the problem.

State Road Sewer District Warrant Article

\$400,000 – CWMP and plant upgrade plan. (275,000 for CWMP)

\$3 million – collection system

\$3.4 million – plant upgrades

Our priority is the CWMP – state requirement for grants and loans.

Presentation to Town Meeting – Fin Com supports unanimously. Jeff P. suggests keeping it as simple as possible. Explain how all

three fit together. Since they are all joined, they would all fail together.

There is no option for any short term growth; some relief due to grants; mitigation of 35% of the Tashmoo watershed N reduction

Challenge; addition of new users brings per gallon cost down for all; shovel ready; can be phased

CWMP Commandments – Created by David Thompson – see attached.

- Selectmen chose EPG to work on the CWMP
- Preparation for questions about the new district – i.e. what is the cost sharing? David presented some options: IA's would cost less, but there would be no sewer plant upgrades, relief for current users and sewer would result in

improved N mitigation. Jeff P. suggests to use IA's only for areas that are less feasible to sewer. We have made commitments to the MVC who imposed limits on new businesses on High Point Lane.

- If voters turn this down, no building can occur in the district. DEP will impose restrictions on us. We would need to build consensus and re-apply.
- We will build into the CWMP a plan for expansion of capacity. David wishes for about 275,000 gpd ultimately.
- Right now, our project is for nitrogen mitigation only per DEP. In the CWMP, we can allocate flow for different purposes including growth, housing, business and environmental.
- Jeff P. makes a motion to recommend this article to the Board of Selectmen. Nancy G. seconds. BOS will meet with EPG to have a workshop to discuss the warrant articles. Christina suggests making the motion stronger in support of growth. Vote carries: 4-0-1.

Regulations Review

- Re-visiting an old regulation that charges a different (2x) per gallon fee if property uses in excess of their flow allotment. David presented a spread sheet of historic flow rates across users. David recommends first investigating (doing a water audit) the site to determine the cause. There is a handful of properties in this category – a couple who are way over. Possibly need an abatement meter. Then, charge a different rate for gallons over the allocation. We could put a notification in the bill. Ask David to create a draft policy for approval.
- Another spread sheet for the State Rd. Sewer District was distributed by David who updated the Title 5 flows based on change of use. The flow estimate is relatively unchanged from those developed by EPG – about 2/3 of the engineered flow estimated for the district. David also showed the betterments at 100%, 75% and 50% share.

Sunset Date Policy

- At our last meeting, we approved a policy that authorizes the Chief Operator to inform through a letter to the applicant informing them that their sunset date had passed and the sewer flow previously granted has been rescinded. We need to speak with the applicant about where he is in the process and whether or not he has a lease with a restaurant developer.
- Town Administrator is doing due diligence on the project and will take action with the BOS when appropriate.

Re-organization:

- Need to elect a Vice Chair: Christina Colorusso was chosen as the temporary Vice Chair.