



**TOWN OF HULL**  
Sewer Department

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## **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of Hull:

The Hull Sewer Department is pleased to submit our 2018 Annual Report. The Sewer Department operates as an enterprise account and as such is required to raise all revenue to cover operating expenses. These revenues are raised through sewer user fees and permit receipts. This year we implemented quarterly billing to reflect a change in our rate structure to help provide a more sustainable revenue source for operations and capital projects.

In 2018, the average flow to the treatment plant was approximately 1.71 million gallons per day (mgd). The wastewater treatment facility was designed to treat an average of 3.07 mgd.

### **PERMANENT SEWER COMMISSION**

Rick Mattila (Chair), Peter Pyclik, Richard Booth, Louis Collins, Andrew Grosso.

### **SEWER DEPARTMENT STAFF**

John Struzziery (Director), Carol O'Connor (Bookkeeper/Clerk), Terri Berardinelli (Facility Coordinator)

### **CONTRACT OPERATOR**

Woodard & Curran is our contract operator for the treatment facility and collection system and staffs the facility seven days a week, 365 days per year. Woodard & Curran also provides engineering services related to the treatment facility and collection system.

### **SEWER DEPARTMENT PROJECTS**

Thank you for voting for the many initiatives approved for funding at the Annual Town Meeting. Work for the priority projects included:

- **Design**
  - Rehabilitation of the Nantasket Avenue interceptor sewer. Construction will begin in Spring 2019.
  - Atlantic Avenue/Gunrock Area sewer improvements. Construction will begin in Spring 2019.
  - Relocate and elevate the electrical transformer and primary service to the treatment facility. This will protect the facility's electrical service in the event of a flood. Funded by Coastal Zone Management resiliency grant.
  - HVAC system replacement for the administration building at the treatment facility.
- **Construction**
  - Replacement of underground fuel tank at treatment facility with above ground tank.
  - Substantially completed energy efficiency improvements under the State's energy grant. The project included aeration system improvements, odor control optimization, and a generator block heater.

- **Planning**

- Conducted sewer assessments of over 15,000 feet of sewers in advance of the Town's roadway pavement management capital plan. Any corrective actions requiring roadway work will be done prior to paving to avoid damage to new finished pavement.
- Enhancements to our GIS mapping and documentation system and coordination with a State grant program that updated our base mapping system. This improves our efficiency and decreases response times to emergencies.

## **MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES**

Work focused on improving the reliability, redundancy, and resiliency of our pump stations and the treatment facility mechanical and process components.

- Atlantic Avenue pump station improvements - completed.
- Influent pumps and sludge piping and valve replacements at the treatment facility - completed.

Numerous other repairs, replacements and basic ongoing maintenance was performed throughout the system. Despite these improvements, there are significant repairs and replacements that are still needed and were prioritized as part of the Fiscal Sustainability Plan. This work will be performed as planned through existing bonding, grants, and continued state and local funding.

## **OPERATIONS**

The winter storms of 2018 challenged us. All staff was on storm alert and in a high flow management mode on a weekly basis. Overall, we fared well and managed each storm well due to the resiliency measures we have put in place and continue to advance. Woodard & Curran and the Sewer Department staff were able to assist the Town in the Ocean Avenue area to help relieve flooding by providing auxiliary pumps for an extended period.

The regionalization of our system with portions of Cohasset and North Scituate advanced to indicate significant financial and environmental advantages are possible. The benefits to Hull in this regionalization concept will be more users to distribute costs for operations, improvements to our collection and treatment system, and better positioning for grant funding of our capital improvements program. Work will continue in 2019 at which point each community will need to decide to advance to the next phase.

This year, 1,695 tests of the performance of the treatment facility were submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the EPA to demonstrate that the facility maintains compliance with its discharge permit. The facility complied with discharge permit requirements throughout the year except for a few minor reported variations or exceedances.

In 2018, we conducted the following inspections:

- 183 sump pump inspections at the time of home sales
- 22 inspections for new buildings subject to a rehabilitation fee which generated \$38,000 in revenue

- 86 sewer inspections for private properties
  - 38 permit inspections
  - 27 second meter inspections
  - 15 abatement inspections
  - 6 miscellaneous inspections
- In addition, we unfortunately dealt with 11 sanitary sewer overflows from the system; responded to 64 calls of sewer backups or grinder pump alarms; and completed 15 repairs to sewer lines and manholes.

As always, “flushable” wipes and cooking grease continues to be a major problem in the sewer system. The presence of these materials in the system often leads to business and/or residential back-ups and cost a lot of money to remove. The money spent on these issues takes funding away from other, often more important issues that need to be resolved for continuity of operations. Please read the newsletter that is included with each sewer bill to find helpful hints on ways to decrease your possibility of experiencing a sewer back-up as well as tips and pointers as to what you should and shouldn’t discard into the municipal sewer system.

Woodard & Curran is acknowledged for their extra effort and diligence over the past year, particularly during the major storm events in January and March. The members of the Permanent Sewer Commission are recognized for their volunteer efforts in shaping sewer policies and budget awareness/monitoring as it relates to user rates. Finally, a special thank you to our office staff for their professionalism, attention to detail, in dealing with billing, records, and day to day matters.

Much progress has been made and I thank you for your continued support in helping to maintain and upgrade our wastewater collection and treatment systems.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Struzziery, P.E.  
Director of Wastewater Operations