

Sewer Works



Newsletter of the Hull
Permanent Sewer Commission

Winter 2018

Message from the Director of Wastewater Operations

Since the Summer newsletter, significant progress has been made to improve the reliability and functionality of much of the equipment at the wastewater treatment facility as well as to plan and position us for future improvements. The Headworks influent gate installation has been completed on time and within budget. This gate is a replacement of a former gate that was no longer operable and by having it in place, provides a way for us to regulate the incoming flow to the facility during a flow event and/or allow us to divert flow to perform repairs within the facility. We also replaced piping and valves on the five influent pumps to provide a way to isolate each pump for maintenance. We are planning a similar project for the effluent pumps. These types of projects provide greater reliability and functionality for our operations. We received approval of approximately \$8.3 million through the DEP State Revolving Loan Fund program which will provide low interest loan funding for three construction projects planned for late this year or early in 2019. We have authorized our consultant to proceed with the designs for these projects in anticipation of receiving town meeting approval to proceed with these projects. See sidebar for information about the projects. We also received notice that a \$4 million grant through MEMA and FEMA to relocate the electrical and HVAC systems at the wastewater treatment facility has advanced to the national level. This is a very competitive program and if successful will provide increased resiliency for our most vulnerable components at the plant. Lastly, we also received approval for a \$200,000 grant through the state Community Compact program, to advance the viability of expanding sewer service to portions of Cohasset and Scituate. More information about each of these projects will be provided at various public meetings planned prior to town meeting in May.

John J. Struzziery, P.E.

Director of Wastewater Operations

Sewer Billing

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The sewer billing for this period maintains the same unit rate as the past billing. As indicated in previous newsletters, the cost of providing sewer service has and will continue to increase primarily due to increased regulations; recovery from the 2013 failure of pumps and equipment at the facility; and maintenance/replacement of equipment and systems that have reached their useful service life after 40 years.

As indicated in the last Newsletter, the Sewer Department used last year to perform condition assessments of much of the sewer infrastructure and developed a capital and funding plan to finance needed system improvements. We have actively pursued outside funding in terms of grants and low interest loans and have been successful and optimistic that pending applications will be approved.

The Permanent Sewer Commission is currently reviewing various sewer rate and billing methodologies, including quarterly billing, to more equitably assess our costs among all users. Any adjustment will be reflected in the August billing. We will provide additional information once the rate and billing approach is approved.

Emergency Planning:

In the Fall, we conducted two days of Fire Department orientation and familiarization of the wastewater treatment facility. This coordination provided emergency personnel with the plant layout, safety considerations and plans, chemicals stored on site, and potential dangers that might be encountered in the event of an emergency.



Work Completed/Ongoing:

Capital Planning/Capital Projects

- Design is underway for the interceptor sewer along Nantasket Avenue and Fitzpatrick Way to be renewed without excavation using a cured-in-place lining system. Construction is planned in late 2018/2019.
- Design is underway for a pipeline renewal plan for the Atlantic Avenue/Gunrock area. Construction is planned for 2019.
- Condition assessments of the force mains (pressure pipes) for Pump Station #1 on Atlantic Avenue and Pump Station #3 along George Washington Boulevard will be conducted in the Spring. If necessary, design will then proceed for the renewal/replacement and will be included in the other projects noted above.
- Design of critical replacements of equipment at the wastewater treatment facility will also be started later this year.

Protection of Plant during High Flows

- An auxiliary pump and piping to supplement effluent pumping needs as well high flow diversion is scheduled for completion in early 2018.
- Design for relocating the electrical and HVAC systems to the second floor of the Administration Building is planned for the second half of this year.
- Replacement of the effluent pump isolation valves is expected by mid-year.

Odor Control

- We will again be planning for chemical odor control measures during the late Spring and Summer months.

Technology Enhancements

- We continue to enhance our GIS mapping and documentation system and will be seeking outside funding for this effort.

Reminders – Please help us keep costs down by doing your part –
Things that you can do include:

No Wipes in the Pipes: Wipes, rags and other debris not intended to be in the sewer even if labeled as Disposable and Flushable, are a major source of sewer backups and clogged pipes. Wipes create blockages in pipes

The Drain is not a Dump: Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) also clog sewer pipes. Do your part by not disposing of FOG down the drain; rather, can it and let it solidify, and then dispose in the trash.

Remember the 3 Ps: Nothing down the toilet but **Paper-Pee and Poo.**