



Newsletter of the Hull Sewer Department Spring 2022

Sewer Works

Operations Message

Just like everyone else, the Sewer Department is feeling the pinch of inflation with higher labor and equipment costs from our contractors and vendors and continued supply chain shortages for most equipment that we need to purchase. This is having significant cost impacts on our capital improvement program resulting in less progress and work completed than anticipated. We have been forced to defer projects, reconfigure the projects to be done in phases, and in some cases, absorb the higher costs. An example is our latest bid in March, which was for the largest project in our capital improvement program. We had only one bidder for the project and the bid came in \$5.5M over estimated cost. Luckily, our staff and contractors immediately went to work on a resolution to this issue by breaking down the project into multiple smaller projects so we can immediately rebid and try for more manageable costs. We are always working together to make our programs and projects successful.

Speaking of success, we have been awarded \$2M from the federal government for our Pump Station 9 Replacement Project. We have been working with engineers on this project and, as soon as the money is released to us, we are ready to start the bid process and construction for this project immediately. Another success is the HVAC Replacement Project, which is underway at the plant right now. We are always trying to be more resourceful and creative in getting these much-needed projects done to repair and strengthen the infrastructure while at the same time being mindful of the costs and its effects on the residents.

John J. Struzziery, P.E., Director of Wastewater Operations
Brian Kiely, P.E. Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations
Cathy Joaquim, Finance and Administrative Coordinator
Mike McDonough, Facility Coordinator

Reminder: No grease down the drain! Put it in the trash.



We Need You!

The Sewer Commission has two vacancies. The primary functions of the Commission are rate setting and policy development and review. The only requirements to be on the Commission are to have an interest in our operations, be open-minded and fair, and available for quarterly meetings. Letters of interest should be sent to the Town Clerk, Lori West at lwest@town.hull.ma.us. Members of the Sewer Commission are appointed by the Select Board. Please call the Sewer Department if you have any questions or want more information.

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Great News!

The Town of Hull has been awarded \$2M for the Pump Station 9 Replacement Project. Pump Station 9 is located at Pemberton Point. We will be ready to bid and start the construction portion of this project almost as soon as the funds are released to us.

This funding is just one of the many grants totaling over \$3.2M we have received in the past 5 years to help defray the costs for the much-needed wastewater infrastructure rehabilitation:

Year	Grant	Amount
2018	CZM Transformer Upgrade	\$148,350
2018	GAP II Energy Grant	\$61,685
2019	CZM Resiliency Berm Planning	\$259,896
2020	CEC Innovative Technologies – Apollo AI software	\$140,627
2020	CZM Resiliency Berm Design	\$205,414
2021	FEMA Electrical Asset Relocation	\$398,303
2022	Stimulus Pump Station #9 Replacement	\$2,000,000
	TOTAL	\$3,214,275

The three R's – Reliability, Redundancy, and Resiliency

We mention Reliability, Redundancy, and Resiliency a lot when it comes to the improvements needed for the wastewater system in Hull. Some of our completed projects to-date include:

Reliability	Redundancy	Resiliency
Sewer rehab projects – Interceptor/Atlantic Avenue Influent gate installed Influent piping and valves replaced Effluent gate installed and valves replaced Pump station pumps and piping replaced (#1 & #3) Clarifier gear drives replaced Outfall repairs	Auxiliary pump installed Spare portable pumps and generator Spare effluent pumps Aeration tanks retrofit	Influent gate installed Installed above ground fuel storage tank Elevated transformer Elevated HVAC/Electric (in progress) Designed site resiliency measures/berm

Projects Update: If you couldn't make it to Opening Day at Fenway on April 15th, we can at least seat you behind the dugout to keep up with our projects at the WWTF and Pump Stations. Go Sox!

- **On deck (planning stage)**
 - Collection system rehabilitation projects recommended from our Town-wide Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey
 - UV Disinfection, Effluent Pump Station, and Odor Control Upgrades recommended in our Facilities Plan
 - Pump Station 4 replacement, this is the pump station on Marginal Road
- **At bat (design/bidding stage)**
 - Pump Station 9 replacement at Pemberton Point – see photo.
 - Influent Process, Secondary Treatment, and Control Building Upgrades at the treatment facility – one bid received and not awarded due to higher-than-expected cost. Project to be scaled down and re-bid.
- **Rounding the bases (in construction)**
 - HVAC Upgrades Project at the treatment facility is in construction
 - SCADA Upgrades to improve remote communication of pump station and treatment facility instrumentation and equipment
 - Replacing two chemical disinfection tanks at the Treatment Facility



Pump Station 9 Replacement at Pemberton Point Commuter Lot was recently granted \$2M in Congressionally Directed Spending. The existing station is beyond its useful life and is vulnerable to coastal flooding. The project design is complete and will be bidding this spring.

Sewerology: This month we describe some common terms as they relate to funding:

- **Enterprise Fund** - The Sewer Department, as with other departments such as the Light Plant and Harbormaster, operate under State Law that requires their funding to be from user revenue and not through the Town's general fund.
- **Operating Budget** - This is the department's annual basis of categories and expenses that match the anticipated revenue sources. The annual budget is based on a fiscal year July 1 to June 30.
- **Capital Budget** - This is for planned major projects, either funded through the operating budget or outside funding sources, that typically have a service life of 20 years or greater.
- **Grants** - Direct money from state or federal agencies that help defray the cost to the user.
- **Loans** - Generally, low-interest loans through state and/or federal agencies at below-discount rates to help defray the cost of capital projects over an extended period, typically 20 years.
- **Retained Earnings** - Revenue greater than expenditures at the end of a fiscal year that can be used for capital projects with town meeting approval in successive years.