



PSC MEETING MINUTES OF March 8, 2023

In attendance: John Struzziery
Brian Kiely
Cathy Joaquim
Mike McDonough

Commissioners: Rick Mattila, Chair
Peter Pyclik, Vice-Chair
Paul Norton
B. Scott Taylor

Meeting called to order @ 4:02 p.m. by Rick Mattila.

Minutes of November 16, 2023

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2022 Sewer Commission Meeting. Paul seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Rick asked for a follow up on some of the information that was discussed at the November 16, 2022 Sewer Commission Meeting.

- a. **Property Transfer Inspection Policy:** The Property Transfer Inspection Policy had been approved at the June 9, 2022 Sewer Commission Meeting. The implementation date was to be January 1, 2023. The Town Manager requested the Sewer Department delay the implementation of the policy until a review of the fiscal viability, as well as the effectiveness, of system-wide camera inspections of sewer laterals could be done to identify all defects and their locations. Brian Kiely contacted contractors and worked with them on reviewing the cost and coordination of the process. The cost is estimated to be about \$500,000. The contractors were also cautious as some of the pipes, since older, would only be 6 inches wide (instead of the newer 8 inch pipes) and their camera systems have been known to get stuck in 6 inch pipes if there are small rocks or debris in the pipe. The Commission discussed the high cost, which would be absorbed by all Hull residents, when the affected group would be so small. They did not want to put the extra cost on all the taxpayers. The fact that the inspections may not be successful in all locations was a consideration in their decision as well. The Commission will write a letter to the Town Manager outlining their decision to implement the Property Transfer Inspection Policy and the reasons they came to this decision. There was a consensus that the policy implementation date should be delayed so that the Town Manager, as well as real estate agents, can be notified. The new implementation date will be September 1, 2023.
- b. **Capital Projects Update:** At the November 16th meeting, John updated everyone on the capital projects. Barletta Construction had just been awarded the Influent Project. At the time, there was no set start date for the project to begin. Since that meeting, a Notice to Proceed was issued to Barletta and the start date for the project should be around April 1, 2023. In November, the Sewer Department was waiting for the EPA to open their grant site so the application for the \$2M Earmark Stimulus money could be submitted. Since the November meeting, the grant site was opened and the application was submitted. The environmental review of the project is in process but the money is expected to be awarded within the next several weeks. If this schedule holds true, bidding for the Pump Station 9 Replacement Project is expected in May 2023; with an expectation of construction by late summer. The last project Rick asked for an update on was the Earthen Berm project. This

project would create a vegetative berm, as well as new flood gates, for the Wastewater Facility. At the time of the November 16th meeting, Brian was in the process of completing the application with a submission deadline date of December 5th. The application was submitted to FEMA for the December 5th date. The application was fast-tracked by FEMA but notification from them regarding acceptance is not expected for several months.

- c. **Climate Adaptation Committee (CAC)**: At the time of the November meeting, the Sewer Commission had just received an invitation for one of their members to join the Climate Adaptation Committee (CAC) which was just forming. Peter had been selected as the Commission member who would participate in this committee. He attended the first committee meeting where the need for the Committee as well as the goals were outlined.

FY24 Budget Request

The FY24 budget request was reviewed. Peter requested a spreadsheet that included a long term look at future year's projected budgets so the Commission may review to make the most informed decisions on rate increase needs as well as funding for future capital projects. This information will be included in the next Sewer Commission meeting packet. The next meeting is expected to be sometime late May or early June.

FY23 Financials Review

Rick reviewed the FY23 financial reports. The budget looks on track to end the year as projected.

Capital Projects Update

John informed the Commission the HVAC Project was nearing completion. The new contractor for the Influent Project is expected to start soon. The Pump Station 9 Replacement Project is expected to be bid in May with construction starting in late summer. The Town has applied for ARPA (American Rescue Plan) money to fund the Outfall project. It is expected to be awarded and a warrant article has been included in the Town Meeting Warrant for the funds to be approved. The Earthen Berm grant application was submitted to FEMA in December. FEMA fast-tracked the application but it still is expected to be several more months before any notification of an award. There has been concrete repair work done to Pump Station 1 and Pump Station 3. The contractor for that job is scheduled to do manhole repair work throughout the Town. This work will be scheduled during the school vacation week since some of the manholes are in front of the high school. Work on controlling I & I is ongoing with use of flow meters and more manhole repair.

Peter referenced the Facility and Resiliency Plan that was provided to the Commission in their meeting packets and asked about the many projects that still have to be done and if it is safe to delay these projects for an extended period of time. John assured the commission that the plant has improved greatly from 10 years ago. There was delay in the projects due to the pandemic and supply chain issues but the imperative repairs have been done and are being done. The plant is maintaining functionality while the needed repairs are done. The bonds taken out to fund the ongoing projects must be spent down to maintain the Town's rating before any other bonds can be requested. The HVAC Project and Influent Project are expected to spend down the current bonds.

New Business

John informed the Commission that a Regionalization Meeting was held on Monday, March 6th. Representatives from Scituate, Cohasset, and Hull, as well as Woodard and Curran, met to discuss applying for Earmark money to fund Phase 2 of the Regionalization Plan. Each community was to have held \$100K to contribute to the plan. Hull had encumbered the money years ago and it is available for the Plan. Scituate and Hull have announced that they are ready to proceed. Cohasset has not yet responded. Phase 2 of the plan is the environmental review and study that needs to be completed before the Regionalization Project can move forward. John will keep the Commission informed on the progress of the plan.

Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.