

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman
Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner

EWWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. David Thompson, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown scheduled their Regular Meeting for Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Edgartown Waste Water Treatment Facility, located at 330 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT: UPDATED SPECIAL TOWN MEETING REQUEST AMOUNTS.

Facilities Manager David Thompson reminded the Board that he had submitted to Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby two Warrant Articles for the April 12 Special Town Meeting. The first asked for \$20,000.00 to replenish the Repair/Replace Equipment Account and help defray the \$51,806.31 cost of the emergency replacement of electric supply cable at the Dock Street Pump Station. The second sought \$20,456.00 to supplement further the Solid Waste Removal Contracts Account. *[See page 3 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2016.]*

Mr. Thompson reported that he had heard back from Ms. Dolby, pointing to an e-mail dated February 9, in which she wrote, "I was able to give you a total of 35,456.00 for your expense account at the special town meeting to cover dock street electric cable issue and sludge cake

disposal.” “That’s just a heads-up,” noted Mr. Thompson, who added that the FinCom had recommended all the Articles.

Administrative Assistant Pia Webster pointed to a sheet she had drawn up titled “Anticipated Surplus in FY16 Salaries & Wages Accounts,” which, she explained, laid out in detail how \$2,505.92 would be available from the Operators line and \$10,210,16 from the Secretarial line for a June transfer to the Expenditures side of the FY16 Operating Budget. Of course, she said, this was contingent upon the Overtime line staying under control. Nevertheless, remarked the Admin Assistant, the \$5,000.00 abridgement of the Department’s request was not the setback that it may have at first appeared to be.

In addition, Admin Assistant Webster had created a Year-to-Date Operating Budget Expenditures Report incorporating the anticipated \$12,716 Salaries & Wages surplus into the Equipment Maintenance Account; the STM Warrant Article \$20,456 request into the Solid Waste Removal Contracts Account; and the STM Warrant Article \$15,000 request into the Repair/Replace Equipment Account. This brought the percentage depleted of the Operating Budget funds down to 65.8 percent from 70.5 percent.

“*However,*” stressed Facilities Manager Thompson, I had a catastrophic failure with one of my macerators...” How much is one of those? wondered Commissioner Scott Ellis. “Twenty thousand,” answered Mr. Thompson, who explained that the Facility had two macerators and that it only needed to use one at a time. He would try, he said, to find replacement parts, although he did not expect to be able to locate any.

UPDATE/DISCUSSION: SCHOOL GENERATOR LETTER; LIBRARY SEWER.

The Board turned to a letter under the signature of the Facilities Manager on behalf of the Board to the Edgartown School Advisory Council regarding the status of the emergency generator at the school. Since 1997, when the generator had been transferred to its present location from the Waste Water Department, it had been serviced by the Department. The letter described how in the last few years those maintenance chores had gone beyond anything that could be described as routine as staff regularly attempted to resuscitate a 34-year-old machine, the parts for which were no longer made and the very enclosure for which was disintegrating. In the meantime, the costs to the Department had been considerable.

Mr. Thompson enumerated the reasons that the Edgartown School should plan with the Edgartown Public Library to buy a new emergency generator that would serve both the library and the emergency shelter at the school. “As the new library is served by several sewer ejector pumps instead of gravity,” he wrote, “that building is not useable during a sustained outage, and could be subject to damage.”

The letter ended with the Facilities Manager stating that as of July 1, 2016, the Waste Water Department would no longer service the backup generator.

Mr. Thompson related that shortly before the meeting he had received an e-mail from FEMA announcing a new round of Hazard Mitigation Fund Grants. He would forward that to the Town Administrator and the School Advisory Council, he said.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to have Mr. Thompson send the letter to the School Advisory Council, seconded by Chairman Searle. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORT/DISCUSSION: 139 MEETINGHOUSE WAY EASEMENT MEMO.

Next, the Board members took up a memorandum dated February 5 written by attorney Howard M. Miller to Douglas R. Hoehn, principal of Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn, regarding whether the owners of 139 Meetinghouse Way (Map 37, Lot 47) could use Division Road, which lies in the Town-owned property 38 Meshacket Road (Map 28, Lot 225). Said access would be required as a means for the owners of the former property to gain easement to Meshacket Road, where there was sewer main, as well as the substation located at 37 Meshacket Road (Map 28, Lot 33), which could handle the number of connections the proposed development would produce.

[For earlier reports on and discussions of this matter, see pages 3-4 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2014; and page 2 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2015.]

“It’s got to go to Town Counsel,” said Commissioner Murphy. Facilities Manager Thompson, though, reminded the Board that engineer Richard Barbini had cancelled his appearance at the meeting that day because his client’s plans were not completely in order. “Everyone’s got to be onboard,” stressed Mr. Thompson, who said that he did not want to go to Town Counsel until he was sure the applicant was going forward with the argument contained in the memorandum.

Following a brief discussion and clarification, Chairman Searle and Commissioner Murphy agreed that Mr. Thompson should wait until Mr. Barbini indicated that his client was going forward with the Division Road argument, at which point the Facilities Manager should submit the memorandum to Town Counsel for an opinion.

REPORT: VICKERS STREET SEWERING APPROACH.

Facilities Manager Thompson relayed the interest expressed by some residents of Vickers Street in sewer. The 32 lots in question lay in the Great Pond Watershed, he said, and because it was a private way, any installation would be set up as the Dark Woods project had been, requiring a minimum number of property owners to sign onto the project. In addition, Mr. Thompson said, a woman with property on Duarte Circle, where there were seven lots, had also inquired about sewerage. He noted that she had seemed undeterred by the three years left on the no-pave moratorium.

The Facilities Manager suggested that it might be time to get a complete flow analysis done by Mr. Barbini or some other engineer before any more major projects proceeded. Responding to a query from Commissioner Murphy, Mr. Thompson said, “We have the *infrastructure* in place to satisfy the DEP” for the Duarte Circle and Vickers Street sewerage. However, the Duarte Circle group would need four lots committed to the installation, while the Vickers Street residents would need 11 to 12 committed.

The discussion turned to the Town’s planned affordable housing development on Meshacket Road. Administrative Assistant Pia Webster suggested that the allocation of sewer flow should certainly go first to the 32 units of that subdivision, where the use would be year-round. After more discussion, the Board members and Mr. Thompson agreed that he should consider drawing up a FY18 Warrant Article requesting funding for a flow analysis of the Field Club sewer line.

REPORT: THE ATLANTIC RESTAURANT ENGINEERING PROPOSALS.

Before any report on or discussion of the Atlantic Restaurant’s engineering issues began, Commissioner Murphy stated for the record, “I have a conflict.” Chairman Searle said that there would be no vote that day, just a statement of facts about a continuing situation at the restaurant.

“This is a big liability issue,” said Facilities Manager Thompson, who related that he found out by talking with Plumbing Inspector George Apostolides the reason for the installation of the basement interceptors. Based on the flows and the seat calculation in State regulations, the previously existing trap beneath the patio had a capacity of only 1,000 gallons when one with a 1,500-gallon capacity was required. “If we added individual boxes,” Mr. Thompson added, “we might reach capacity.” Otherwise, he said, they were “back to square one.”

REPORT: GHD WORKSHOP NO. 1.

The Board turned in their binders to a document from GHD, Inc. titled “Edgartown, MA: Workshop No. 1 – February 11, 2016.” Facilities Manager Thompson described the daylong visit of engineer Marc Drainville and a colleague to the Facility, as well as the resulting series of reports for the Plant Evaluation, including Likelihood of Failure, Consequence of Failure, Determining Criticality of Projects, Criticality Matrix, Breakdown of Projects, and Development of Project List.

ACCEPTANCE/VOTE: FY16 SEWER CHARGES HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS.

Admin Assistant Webster presented the list of FY16 Sewer User Charges Hardship Exemptions, as granted by the Board of Assessors. She reminded those present that Article IX Section 8 of the Department’s *Rules & Regulations* provided for the abatement of the bills of those granted these exemptions down to \$50.00 annually. Those on the list, with the amounts of their abatements, were as follows:

S0145	Patricia Rae Allen	50 West Tisbury Rd	230.00
S0454	Peter B. Van Tassel	119 South Water St	650.00
S0910	Gloria Fisk	60 Pine St	300.00
S1038	Constance Scott	42 Martha’s Rd	440.00
S1045	Ralph Gross	34 Pinehurst Rd	300.00
S1122	Evelyn M. Simpson	42 Pinehurst Rd	<u>440.00</u>
TOTAL ABATEMENTS			<u>\$ 2,360.00</u>

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the abatements as presented, seconded by the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS.

FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT.

Mr. Thompson reported that beginning on January 22, the Island had been hit with Winter Storm Jonas, which brought with it outages. Two days earlier, on the 20th, the Facilities Manager had met with Edgartown Emergency Management Director Peter G. Shemeth and others to prepare for the storm.

Included in the meeting binders were photographs of a roll-on container that had been returned to the Waste Water Facility on January 25 from the Synagro Woonsocket facility half-full with sludge cake. It seemed to Mr. Thompson that incinerator Synagro or hauler Howland Disposal Service – or both – ought to have noticed this situation.

The Facilities Manager related the Synagro and Howland Disposal Service wound up pointing fingers at one another, but that Synagro had finally agreed to give the Department a half-container credit on their February bill. He was still waiting to hear back from Howland, from whom he was hoping for a similar concession.

Lastly, Mr. Thompson said he had received a call from attorney Martin V. “Skip” Tomassian, who was representing the buyer of the Warren House (62 North Water Street), which had formerly been owned by the Town of Edgartown. He had referred Attorney Tomassian back to the Town Administrator.

The Facilities Manager explained that when the aboveground poles on North Water Street had been replaced with underground lines, the contractor had placed a box conduit on top of the wastewater lateral for 62 North Water. Further, the box conduit had been situated on private property and not within the utility company easement.

Because the water was turned off at the property until after the sale by the Town, continued Mr. Thompson, this state of affairs was not discovered until then. Town Administrator Dolby, he said, was negotiating a resolution. The Chairman noted that the box conduit was being moved off the private property.

FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Admin Assistant Webster reported on FY16 Sewer User Charges Collections as of February 11, which stood at \$1,119,165.12, or 93.1 percent of the Adjusted FY16 Sewer Commitment. Nine hundred eight-nine out of 1,052 accounts had been paid in full, she said.

The Cash Receipts Report as of February 17, continued the Admin Assistant, indicated that the total Sewer User Charges category, which included Interest & Penalties and Lien Collections, stood at 103.8 percent when compared to projections. Septage Charges, at \$272,927.84, were at 71.8 percent of the fiscal-year projection; while Septage Permits came to \$7,450.00 or 124.2 percent of the projected annual total.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Searle offered a motion to adjourn, with a second from Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Glen S. Searle, Chairman

Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner