

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 23, 2019**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman
Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner
Mr. Sean E. Murphy, 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 held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019, 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. Also present from the Board was Waste Water Commissioner Scott Ellis. Commissioner Sean E. Murphy arrived at the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE: VISITORS CENTER UPGRADE.

Facilities Manager David Thompson reported that the Visitors Center Upgrade Project had gone smoothly, with the new control panel delivering far more information than the older one did. Responding to a question from Commissioner Ellis, Mr. Thompson said that there were two pumps now, instead of one. Also, the new system would not have the clogging issues the older one had.

UPDATE: DARK HOLLOW LANE SEWER EXTENSION.

The Facilities Manager related that Ed Charter, who was representing 2 Dark Hollow Lane owner Josh Schwabel, had been operating under some misapprehensions as to exactly where in the approval process his sewer extension request stood and what hurdles he had to clear prior to gaining that approval.¹ In Mr. Thompson's opinion, Mr. Charter had written a good letter, intended for the Dark Hollow Lane abutters, and his Association Trust Easement and Agreement constituted a fine proposal. Further, at only \$7,000 per tie-in with no annual increase, the price was more than reasonable, he said.

There was resistance, though, coming from one of the abutters, Mr. Thompson continued. However, since Dark Hollow Lane lay in a Zone II Area of Contribution – and since Mr. Charter was asking Health Agent Matt Poole to make a case for the extension – the Facilities Manager thought the argument for the extension would be overwhelming. A brief discussion ensued.

REPORT: MAY 15 MEETING WITH FINCOM RE: CH 77 TRANSFER REQUEST.

Administrative Assistant Pia Webster reported on her May 15 meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee regarding the Department's FY19 Chapter 77 Transfer Request of \$37,500 from the Salaries & Wages Plant Operators Salary Account to the Expenditures Special Services Account. After a presentation and some Q-and-A, she said, the FinCom had approved the request in full.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/VOTE: FY19 SEWER USER CHARGES HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS.

The Admin Assistant presented two lists from the Assessor: one of residents who had been granted the M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 59 Clause 18 Hardship Exemption toward their real estate taxes; the other of residents who had received the Clause 41(c) Exemption. Mrs. Webster had highlighted on the lists the names of the residents who were Sewer Users. She drew attention to the entry for the property at Map 20C Parcel 157.2 (29 Pinehurst Road) under the names of Robert T. Morgan Sr. and Althea L. Morgan. (Mr. Morgan is in fact deceased.)

Under Article IX Section 8 of the Department's Rules and Regulations, only "[y]ear-round, single-home property owners" were eligible for the Hardship Exemption, and Mrs. Morgan was the owner as well of 27 Pinehurst Road, which she rented out, Mrs. Webster said. The Board members reviewed Mrs. Morgan's letter and considered the difficulty of her circumstances.

Commissioner Murphy then made a motion as follows: That the Board grant the following Hardship Abatements off the FY19 Sewer User Bills of these customers: Gloria Fisk, 60 Pine Street, \$320; Althea L. Morgan, 29 Pinehurst Road, \$542; Peter B. Van Tassel, 119 South Water Street, \$690; Patricia Rae Allen, 50 West Tisbury Road, \$246; Constance Scott, 42 Martha's Road, \$468; Ralph Gross, 34 Pinehurst Road, \$320; and Barbara L. Boyle, 62 Martha's Road,

¹ See page 3 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2019 for an account of Mr. Charter's earlier appearance before the Board.

\$764, for a total of \$3,350 abated. Commissioner Ellis provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION: CONSIDERATION OF FY20 RATES FOR JUNE REGULAR MEETING.

The Board members looked over a chart that laid out Sewer User Rates and Revenues from FY13 through FY19, as well as Expected Revenues in FY20 using OTD Rates Per Drain of \$74, \$76, \$77 and \$78. In a cover memorandum, from which she read, Admin Assistant Webster argued for raising the OTD Rate from \$74 to \$77, a rate increase of 4.1 percent consonant with the two-year Consumer Price Index growth rate of 4.3 percent in the region. Commissioner Murphy spoke for a rate increase to \$76 per drain instead, indicating that a three-dollar increase would be too great a burden on the customers. Chairman Searle, Commissioner Ellis and Facilities Manager Thompson appeared to agree.

The consensus as to the BOD Flat Rate and the BOD Seat Charge seemed to be in the direction of keeping them as they were. Mr. Thompson pointed to the bite the \$1,425 BOD Flat Charge took out of small operations like coffee shops. Since this was a discussion preliminary to an actual vote on rates in the June Regular Meeting, the matter was left at that.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DEPARTMENT HEAD PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.

In their role as the Supervisor of the Facilities Manager, the Edgartown Board of Waste Water Commissioners carried out the Annual Department Head Performance Evaluation for David Thompson in Open Session. (This was a Maximum Step Evaluation.) The results were favorable, and Chairman Searle and Mr. Thompson signed the third page of the form.

FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORTS.

The Facilities Manager reported that the staff had "smoothed things out" with the frequent false high-level alarms at the Chase Road Pump Station. He was looking forward, he said, to the upgrade at that station. The Water Services Project at Donaldbin Close, added Mr. Thompson, was "basically squared away."

FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Admin Assistant Webster referred those present to the report titled "FY19 Operating Budget Expenditures as of May 28, 2019," pointing to the three line items in the Expenditures portion with heart icons in the right margin. The budgets for those particular lines, she said, had each been adjusted upward since the start of the fiscal year. They were: 0144005 / 530016 Special Services, which had been infused with a Chapter 77 transfer of \$37,500 from the Plant Operators Salary Account; 0144005 / 585000 New Equipment, augmented by \$16,288 from Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 7; and 0144006 / 585010 Equip Repair Replace Upgrade Account, boosted by \$13,000 from the Reserve Fund.

With a balance of \$29,540, the Equip Repair Replace Upgrade Account, Mrs. Webster continued, would be eaten up entirely by the Donaldbin Close Water Services Project. But with the Chapter 77 Transfer worked into the chart, she said, the Percentage Used statistic for Expenditures stood at 79.4 percent; this meant that the Facilities Manager could now be comfortable purchasing some of the parts he may have been holding off on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2019**. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 18, 2019 as written, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Next, the Board members took up the **Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 9, 2019**. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 9, 2019 as written, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Searle made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting, which Commissioner Ellis seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Glen S. Searle, Chairman

Scott Ellis, Commissioner

Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner