

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN  
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

**WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman  
Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner

**WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**

Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

**EWWD STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. William Meader, Junior Operator  
Mr. Joseph Rock, Plant Operator  
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, September 26, 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.

**REMEMBERING PLANT OPERATOR DALE R. MORGAN.**

Before taking up the agenda, Chairman Searle read into the record a statement honoring the memory of Dale R. Morgan.

*“Please join me in taking a moment to remember Plant Operator Dale Morgan,  
who died suddenly late yesterday afternoon.*”

*Dale started here almost 19 years ago, when Joe Alosso, in his wisdom, took a chance on a man who needed that chance to become fully the man he was meant to be. No one knew the workings of this Plant better than Dale, and no one cared for all its parts with more skill and affection. This Department and this Town were lucky to have been in his company.*

*Godspeed, Dale. You'll be missed."*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE: CIP PROJECTS SCORECARD; TIGHE & BOND SITE VISIT;  
ROBERT B. OUR CO., INC. SITE VISIT.**

Facilities Manager David Thompson reviewed a chart titled "Scorecard for CIP Projects" where were listed on the left concluded Capital Improvement Projects totaling \$850,090.00 financed by Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles prior to 2018; and on the right, both completed and incomplete CIPs covered by 2018 ATM Warrant Article 18 for \$3,726,500.00, of which \$611,799.49 had been spent.

Also, Mr. Thompson described his design meeting with Tighe & Bond engineers Austin Weidner, Michael Bishop and Daemian Foster, where they discussed the following construction phase services: the Dunham Road Pump Station and Chase Road Pump Station Upgrades; the Wastewater Facility Upgrades and Septage Storage Design; and the SCADA System Upgrade.

**UPDATE: DUARTE CIRCLE PARTICIPATION.**

The Facilities Manager related that on September 9 he had received from Patrick W. Kager of 11A and 11B Duarte Circle an e-mail that stated: "Attached are the tie-in certificates for 7, 9, 10, 12 13, 15 Duarte Circle. Please let me know when sewer applications are received for any of these parcels." Attached were Tie-In Payment Confirmation Forms signed by Mr. Kager, one for each of the abutters, the aggregate of which constituted all of the lot owners who had the option to tie in to the line.

It appeared, said Mr. Thompson, that Andrew Farrissey, installer of the main and taps, had been paid in full by Mr. Kager. The only thing for the Department to do, he added, was to wait for the permit applications.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION: HIRE ADDITIONAL PLANT OPERATOR.**

Chairman Searle described a discussion he had had with family members of Dale Morgan about Mr. Morgan's retiring early and the Department's hiring another full-time Operator, while having Mr. Morgan return to the Department to work part-time. Considering the present situation, though, it looked as if the Department would be hiring two new Operators, he said, instead of one.

Facilities Manager Thompson referred to the help-wanted advertisement content in the meeting binders, reminding the Commissioners that in the past he had advertised for three positions with a single ad: Chief Operator, Plant Operator and Junior Operator. He intended, he said, to do that again in the hope that he might attract a qualified applicant for one of the first two positions. Also, Mr. Thompson added, the biannual staffing plan for the DEP was due in February; so he could see what the outcome of the staffing plan formula called for.

A discussion ensued. Junior Operator William Meader pointed out that with Plant Operator Theodore Van Gerven retiring at the end of December 2020, the Department would definitely need to hire a second Operator and it needed to do it soon, to allow time for training the replacement. But Mr. Thompson noted that it would not be the first time that an employee who intended to retire changed his mind; so an expected retirement more than a year away was not reason enough to hire a second Operator. Nonetheless, after further discussion, the Facilities Manager said he was at a point where he was “willing to get two guys on board.”

**REPORT: BID REQUESTS FOR FY21 SLUDGE DISPOSAL & TRANSPORT.**

Facilities Manager Thompson described a quandary he faced: The Steamship Authority required that reservations through the 2020 high season be made by January 2020; but whoever secured the contract to transport the sludge cakes from the Plant to the incineration facility would not be able to bid on that contract until after the sludge disposal contract had been taken care of. Mr. Thompson explained: In the past the Department had not begun the bid process for the three-year contracts until January; in addition, even if he could manage to hasten the process, the funds for either contract would still not be available until after July 1.

What he needed, Mr. Thompson said, was for the Town Administrator and the Town Accountant to “lock us in” for the \$83,200 for Equipment Hire (disposal) and the \$78,000 for Solid Waste Removal Contracts (transport) before the municipal finance season in the fall and early winter. That way he could initiate the bid process earlier than was customary. The Board members expressed their support.

**MEETING HOUSE PLACE PROJECT – MVC/LUPC DECISION.**

“Right now that project’s dead in the water,” reported the Facilities Manager, referring to the Meeting House Place Project, for which the MVC’s Land Use Planning Committee had recommended denial and which the applicant had withdrawn for the time being. Mr. Thompson described a letter by Jay Guest critical of the Waste Water Commission’s recommendation for sewerage the project. Printed in the September 12 edition of *The Martha’s Vineyard Times*, the letter, according to Mr. Thompson, contained numerous inaccuracies and libelous claims, and had resulted in an outpouring of further untruths in responses online. The Facilities Manager had written a point-by-point rebuttal, published in the September 19 edition of the newspaper.

**REPORT: E-ONE INTERVIEW – SEPTEMBER 18.**

In a report he characterized as “bittersweet,” Mr. Thompson related how a crew hired to make a promotional film about the E-One grinder pump had spent the afternoon at the Plant eight days

earlier, shooting footage about the Department's pump maintenance program, including some of Dale Morgan servicing pumps. "I thought it was good publicity for us," remarked the Facilities Manager.

**REPORT: VTA PROJECT/CHURCH STREET.**

The Board members looked over plans submitted by the Vineyard Transit Authority for its proposed charging stations on Church Street. Mr. Thompson said that he, along with Town Administrator James Hagerty, Water Superintendent William Chapman and Highway Superintendent Allan DeBettencourt, among others, had met earlier that day with VTA agents to continue their ongoing discussion of the project.

Directing the Commissioners' attention to the site plan titled "VTA Microgrid: Civil Site Layout C2.001," the Facilities Manager explained how in the process of burying the three charging stations, a water main running down Church Street would have to be moved. The only issue concerning the Waste Water Department was the matter of a customer on Church Street, across from the Visitors Center, who would be switched from a gravity main hook-up to an E-One pump.

Administrative Assistant Pia Webster inquired about whether the VTA would be assuming the full cost for the changeover to the E-One, and the Chairman responded that the VTA had better do that. There was some discussion about the Transit Authority paying the increased electricity costs expected to be incurred by the customer as a result of the grinder pump operation.

Commissioner Ellis reported that he had heard that each concrete box supporting a charging pad was the size of a big truck. Responding to a question from the Admin Assistant, Mr. Thompson assured those present that the VTA's installation was staying away from the recently upgraded Visitors Center Pump Station.

Lastly, Mr. Thompson pointed to a black-and-white photo of the lateral for 26 Church Street, where the E-One pump would have to be installed.

**FYI: ELEMECH (PORTALOGIC) SUPPORT & WARRANTY RENEWAL.**

The Board members took a moment to look over the latest EleMech Support & Warranty Renewal Authority document for the PortALogic Software Support Agreement and Hauler Station Extended Warranty in the amount of \$1,600, for the one-year term beginning January 1, 2020. The Facilities Manager reminded them that he had to keep them informed of any agreements he intended to enter into on behalf of the Department.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORTS.**

"Good times in August!" said Mr. Thompson, beginning the Chief Operator's Report for August 2019. The flow for the month had been more than 15.7 million gallons, as it had been for July. The Facilities Manager then went over some of the highlights from the report.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

Admin Assistant Webster reported that compared to the same point in Fiscal Year 2019, Septage Receiving Volumes were up by 19.8 percent, and Revenue, by 21.7 percent. Total Operating Budget Expenses stood at 28.3 percent used at a point when these ought to be at 25.4 percent. However, said Mrs. Webster, she was not overly concerned, since these figures included two of the most expense-heavy months of the fiscal year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept the **Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 22, 2019** as written, seconded by Chairman Searle. 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 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster  
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

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Glen S. Searle, Chairman

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Scott Ellis, Commissioner