



# TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT  
330 WEST TISBURY ROAD  
P.O. BOX 1068  
EDGARTOWN, MA 02539

TEL. 508 627-5482  
FAX 508 627-5169

## TOWN OF EDGARTOWN BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 15, 2014

#### **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 15, 2014, 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 4:01 p.m., noting that Commissioner Sean E. Murphy had not yet arrived but confident he would be there soon, Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order. (Commissioner Murphy arrived at 4:03 p.m.)

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **REPORT: RESPONSE TO INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR UTILITY TRUCK.**

Facilities Manager David Thompson reported on the response to the Invitation For Bids for the 2003 GMC Savana 3500 Utility Truck, the deadline for which had been 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. "How many bids did we get?" inquired the Chairman. "None," answered Mr. Thompson, adding, "We had a couple of bites." *[For background on this matter, see page 3 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2013; page 3 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2014; page 6 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2014; and page 2 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2014.]*

The Facilities Manager outlined some viable next moves. The Board could re-advertise, for instance, but with a lower minimum bid, which had been \$15,500.00. Chairman

Searle wanted to know if Mr. Thompson thought that price had been too high. No, Mr. Thompson replied, according to his research, it was, in fact, "fairly low"; comparable vehicles were being sold for closer to \$17,000.00. Commissioner Scott Ellis described the price as "reasonable." The Facilities Manager suggested that the replacement of the old tires would add appeal, although he had concerns about cost. He also wondered whether he had run the ads long enough.

Chairman Searle recommended that the Department advertise again, this time displaying the truck out front by the West Tisbury Road, to the side of the driveway, with a "For Sale" sign. All agreed to stick with the minimum bid of \$15,500.00. To save on the cost of new tires, Commissioner Ellis encouraged Mr. Thompson to get in touch with the Fair Haven vendor who provided the tires for Fire Department vehicles. All agreed that replacing the tires made sense. Mr. Thompson said he would set the deadline for bids on or after July 1.

Chairman Searle made a motion to re-advertise the Invitation For Bids for the Savana 3500 Utility Truck and to have Mr. Thompson find out from Commissioner Ellis the name of the Fair Haven tire vendor so he could purchase new tires for the vehicle. Commissioner Murphy provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**UPDATE: SLUDGE CAKE TRANSPORT INVITATION FOR BIDS.**

The Board turned to the matter of the Invitation For Bids for the Transportation of Dewatered Sludge Cake to Disposal Facility that recently had been duly run and posted. *[For earlier discussion of this subject, see pages 4-5 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2014; and page 2 of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 1, 2014.]* Facilities Manager Thompson said that the bids were due at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 and that he needed one of the Board members to be there when he opened them. It was settled that Commissioner Murphy would do that.

Mr. Thompson related that Howland Transport, an off-Island outfit that made occasional visits to the Vineland, had contacted him in response to the advertisement. In addition, he had gotten in touch with all of the pertinent on-Island operations about the opportunity. "They all know," he said.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REPORT: SOLICITATION OF QUOTES FOR SODA  
BLASTING OF ODOR-CONTROL SILOS**

Facilities Manager Thompson reported that he had spoken to some people in the soda-blasting business and had sent a Solicitation For Quotes to organizations in Fitchburg and Wareham, among others, about the soda blasting component of the Odor Control System Coating Replacement Project. *[See page 6 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2014 for the last reference to this subject.]* It was too late, of course, for the chosen

contractor to arrange for the transport of men and equipment to the Island this summer, he said.

If the offers were kept under \$25,000, Mr. Thompson continued, the simple quote process would meet Chapter 30B requirements. Interest had been expressed in coming to inspect the silos onsite, he said, and one prospective contractor was of the opinion that high-pressure water blasting followed by soda blasting would do a suitable job. The Facilities Manager expected the blasting to cost from \$18,000 to \$22,000. With what then remained in the so-called Scrubber Towers Account (which balance stood at \$31,475.10), Mr. Thompson proposed that his crew paint the silos themselves, something they had done successfully with one of the towers in May of 2012. After the Facilities Manager answered a few questions from the Commissioners, the discussion wound down.

**VOTE: AMENDMENT TO RULES & REGS RE: HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.**

Administrative Assistant Pia Webster explained to those present that the last sentence of Article IX, Section VIII of the *Rules & Regulations* had become invalid with the initiation of MUNIS Sewer Billing in April 2013. That sentence currently read, "Once granted by the Board of Assessors, the exemption relief will be applied to the next billing cycle." Since the Waste Water Department billed annually, the next billing cycle always fell in the next fiscal year, noted Mrs. Webster. But the aligning of the Waste Water Department's billing system with the Town Collector's now required that adjustments made after the granting of hardship exemptions by the Board within a particular fiscal year affect the balances of bills issued *within the same fiscal year*.

Mrs. Webster then read the proposed wording that would replace the last sentence of Section VIII: "Once granted by the Board of Assessors, the exemption relief will take the form of an abatement of the current fiscal year's sewer bill less fifty dollars (\$50.00)." She explained that the Hardship Rate was a flat \$50.00 per year. Commissioner Scott moved to replace the current last sentence of Section VIII with the proposed wording as presented. Commissioner Murphy provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**INITIAL DISCUSSION: FY15 SEWER RATES.**

Admin Assistant Webster started the consideration of FY15 Sewer Rates with a quick look at the numbers. She went over a chart titled "FY15 Projected Income and Expenses in Well-Rounded Figures," which laid out in broad strokes the Department's approximate total revenue (\$1.5 million) and its projected expenses for the year, which included an operating budget of about \$1 million, debt service of \$841,000, and medical and workers' compensation insurance-premium costs of around \$124,000. Adding to this the \$277,500 in FY15 Warrant Articles, the total expenses came to \$2,242,500, leaving a \$742,500 deficit.

Currently, Mrs. Webster said, the debt service and insurance premiums were not part of the budget but were paid by the Town. In essence, then, the Department covered its

Operating Budget, which included the Repair/Replace Account Warrant Article, and then an additional half million dollars in expenses, or about two thirds of the total.

The next chart laid out the Department's Operating Budgets from FY11 through FY15, alongside actual expenditures from FY11 to FY13 and extrapolated ones for FY14 based on expense figures through May 12 of the current year. The Admin Assistant commended the past and present Department Heads for the remarkable record of a 1.24 percent average annual rise since FY11.

Mrs. Webster had also included a chart of the FY14 Debt Schedule for the Waste Water Department, which she had culled from one for all departments from the Treasurer's Office. She noted that the Waste Water Department's debt service was likely lower than was indicated, since a portion of the Island Grove loan was being paid through betterments. She would check on the exact figures with the Treasurer. The binder contained a listing of "Past and Planned Warrant Articles" from FY15 through FY19 as well.

Having dispensed with background materials, Admin Assistant Webster moved on to a document titled "Discussion of FY15 Sewer Rates" that laid out in full the FY13 and FY14 rates, number of customers, types and numbers of charges, committed revenues, and abatements. For FY15 an assumed number of 302 additional OTDs, based on completed and pending permits, were added to the 14,493 the Department billed in FY14.

Then Mrs. Webster had calculated the revenues generated with the same OTD rate as the one used in FY14 (\$68.00 per OTD); as well as with an OTD rate raised by a factor of the Consumer Price Index for "all types" for the Boston-Brockton-Nashua region from March 2013 to March 2014 of 1.7 percent. Under the older rate, net revenues of \$1,126,847.25 could be expected; while the newer rate of \$69.20 per OTD produced net revenue of \$1,146,870.50.

Facilities Manager Thompson cautioned that the Board was under no pressure to vote quickly on the rates; it had been customary to discuss the rates in general terms in the first session and then take a vote in the second or even a third session. Mrs. Webster noted that the Board had until July 30 to set the rates.

Next, the Admin Assistant pointed to the average cost of service to a residential household she had come up with, which had turned out to be more than had been calculated two years earlier. This was the result of have "lost" more than 120 accounts that had belonged to customers in name only after staff had done a thorough sweep of all sewer accounts the previous December and January. Fewer accounts meant a higher cost per household.

A discussion followed regarding the efficacy of determining the median cost per household to compensate for the skewing precipitated by the monumental structures of some second-home owners. Having found that figure, one could get a truer sense of how much *most* households spent on sewer service. Tighe & Bond's next Massachusetts Sewer Rate Survey would be for 2014; so more would be known upon its publication about how Edgartown's rates compared to those of other towns around the State. It was agreed that the discussion on rates would continue in the next Regular Meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSS: POSSIBLY OBTAINING NEWEA PUBLIC-INFORMATION SPOTS.**

Facilities Manager Thompson described a visit to the Facility earlier in the week by some representatives of the International Nonwovens and Disposables Association (INDA), an association of member companies that worked with the New England Water Environment Association and the American Public Works Association to reduce the burden on wastewater systems caused by so-called flushables. Mr. Thompson related that at first the problem had simply been a matter of contending with baby wipes; lately, though, wipes were being promoted as an alternative to toilet paper.

“We ran some of the products through E-Ones,” he said, adding that some of the claims for flushability touted in product advertising were simply untrue. “This is a problem throughout the industry,” he stressed. Mr. Thompson saw this as an opportunity for a public education campaign.

Also visiting the Facility, continued Mr. Thomson, was an employee of the Portland, Maine Sewer District. The Portland Water District, the Maine Wastewater Control Association and INDA had aired two television advertisements as part of an eight-week campaign to get out the word about the costly clogs caused by wet wipes. The wastewater association had contributed some funds, as had INDA. What the Facilities Manager wanted from the Commissioners was some financial support to launch a similar campaign on the Vineyard. Such an effort to educate the public, particularly through the schools, would continue a past Department practice.

Chairman Searle asked that Mr. Thompson wait a month until they had a better idea about what was left in the Operating Budget. Commissioner Murphy thought that if Mr. Thompson could “find the money,” he supported the effort. “I’m for it,” said Commissioner Ellis. Chairman Searle agreed.

**FACILITIES MANAGER’S REPORT.**

“Just another busy month,” remarked Facilities Manager Thompson about April. He noted that during that month they had been “into the window” of the first full month after the flow meter repair that had led to artificially high influent flow numbers being recorded. Effluent flow for this April was 3,585,794 gallons, and in 2013, 4,875,183 gallons, a difference of about 28 percent.

“We were kicked in the butt on septage,” the Facilities Manager commented, pointing out that the septage volume in April was more than double that for March.

Commissioner Murphy asked whether Hawkeye had reimbursed the Department yet for damage inflicted during the installation of new poles on the West Tisbury Road. [*Ibid.*, page 5.] No, replied Mr. Thompson, but if he had not heard from Hawkeye by June, he would take the matter back to Town Counsel. Chairman Searle wanted to know how much money was involved. “Five grand,” answered the Facilities Manager, adding that

Town Counsel Ronald H. Rappaport had characterized that amount as “peanuts.” The Board discussed the matter briefly.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

Admin Assistant Webster reported that the big story was the FY14 Septage Billed Revenue. Referring to a chart titled “Septage New Revenue by Category: Projections for Fiscal Year 2014 – May 15, 2014,” Mrs. Webster indicated that as of noon that day total volume stood at 1,395,064 gallons, with billings at \$313,423.56. If the weather held up, as well as the pumping patterns set in FY12 and FY13, the next six weeks should bring in another 278,400 gallons and \$65,476.00. That would take the fiscal year totals to record levels of 1,673,464 gallons and \$378,889.56.

Mrs. Webster cautioned that these figures were “projections of the most optimistic variety.” However, she said, she would be comfortable asserting that one could reasonably expect FY14 Septage Revenue to exceed \$365,000, which would still be a record.

The Facilities Manager reminded everyone that for every six dollars earned in Septage Revenue, one dollar was spent by the Department in maintaining the service. Mrs. Webster suggested that in the fall the Board and staff bring these figures to the Financial Advisory Committee and request an expanded Operating Budget to reflect the increased septage acceptance service.

The other aspect of the septage operation the Admin Assistant wished to highlight was the return to the roster of hauler Troy Maciel of Maciel & Sons, Inc. She believed that Mr. Maciel’s reappearance at the Facility was the single most significant factor in the surge in Septage Billed Revenue in FY14. She showed the Board a report she had drawn up the year before that laid out by fiscal year the Maciel revenue since 2001.

From FY01 through FY11, Maciel & Sons had averaged \$52,860.56 per year in business with the Facility. In FY12 revenue dropped to just under \$21,000, and in FY13, to only \$100.56. (Mr. Maciel had taken most of his business to Falmouth.) As of noon that day, though, Septage Billed Revenue from Maciel & Sons had reached \$84,348.91 for FY14, related Mrs. Webster. And if one were to subtract that amount from the total for all haulers thus far, the Department would be where it was at this point in FY13.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

The Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2014**. There being no discussion or comment, Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Chairman Searle. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Next, the Board took up the **Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 1, 2014**. There being no discussion or comment, Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Staff and Board set a Special Meeting for Thursday, May 22, to vote on two Letter Agreements with Tighe & Bond. Commissioners Ellis and Searle would attend. The June Regular Meeting would be on June 19 or 26, pending word from Commissioner Ellis.

There being no further business or comment, the Chairman offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Murphy seconded it, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

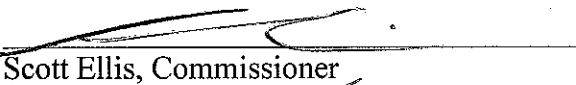
Pia Webster  
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN



Glen S. Searle, Chairman



Scott Ellis, Commissioner



Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner