

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2014**

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Richard J. Barbini

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 28, 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 4:00 p.m. Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order. Members of the Board present were Chairman Searle and Waste Water Commissioner Sean E. Murphy. Waste Water Commissioner Scott Ellis had notified the Chairman earlier that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION: PACKAGE TO SELECTMEN RE: CONDITION ASSESSMENT.

Chairman Searle related that this piece of business involved simply a “go-ahead” from the Board regarding the Condition Assessment package for the Selectmen that had been

discussed in earlier meetings. [See page 4 of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2014; page 4 of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2014; and page 7 of the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2014.] Facilities Manager David Thompson explained that he had trimmed the original cover letter, removing the Scope of Work material. He noted that the next document in their packets labeled “Request For Proposals – Condition Assessment” was in fact material from the Scope of Work. “My mistake,” said Administrative Assistant Pia Webster, who had mislabeled it.

Facilities Manager Thompson continued that he had received a response from Marc Drainville of GHD, the document titled “Proposal for Professional Services – Wastewater Facility Condition Assessment” attached to the cover letter. Commissioner Murphy clarified with Mr. Thompson that the original amount of \$45,000 allocated in FY19 for “Engineering Evaluation – Plant Upgrade” had been for a project with a smaller Scope of Work than what GHD was offering at \$90,000.

The Facilities Manager explained that there were two aspects GHD would be looking at: (a) the condition of the Facility; and (b) what it would take to upgrade the Facility, that is, to increase the plant’s capacity. The FY19 project had been aimed at the upgrade only.

Responding to a query from Chairman Searle, Facilities Manager Thompson related that the Department could request a change in the emphasis of the project. But a Condition Assessment is what the Selectmen had asked for, and the Upgrade Evaluation was a necessary step in any event. “I folded them together,” he said. After further discussion Chairman Searle and Commissioner Murphy gave Mr. Thompson the go-ahead on the package.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/VOTE: SEWER SERVICE TO COMPLEX (MAP 21, LOT 34.223).

The Board addressed the subject of sewer service to a proposed apartment and retail complex just off the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road (Map 21, Lot 34.223). Commissioner Murphy stated that he did not believe he had a conflict in this matter. Although he did represent an abutter, that client’s application for sewer service had been resolved with regard to this Board and was no longer in play.

“Basically, it’s already been settled,” agreed Richard J. Barbini, the engineer who was there to present the new project and who had worked on the other project. Facilities Manager Thompson confirmed this, and Chairman Searle reiterated the principle that the Board of Waste Water Commissioners addressed only the issue of sewer service. “Then I don’t have a conflict,” said Commissioner Murphy.

Mr. Barbini related that the project comprised eight apartments (16 bedrooms) and 8,000 square feet of office space, for a flow of 2,360 gallons per day. The building would be served by a Model DH-152 E-One Duplex pump chamber and a 1½-inch lateral connection directly into the 2-inch force main on the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road. “The existing force main is more than adequate,” Mr. Barbini stated.

Facilities Manager Thompson provided some background on the sewer main development in that area. The Board looked over a site map of that stretch, considering both commercial and residential abutters.

“Can we handle it?” asked Chairman Searle. Yes, replied Mr. Thompson. “Another straw on the camel’s back, but it’s a strong camel,” remarked the Chairman.

Commissioner Murphy wanted to know what the Facilities Manager thought. “I don’t have a dog in this fight,” answered Mr. Thompson. “It’s zoned business.” Commissioner Murphy commented that so long as this was being done fairly, he did not object. He then made a motion to approve sewer service to the project, with Chairman Searle providing a second. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote

DISCUSSION/VOTE: SEWER SERVICE TO 50-LOT SUBDIVISION (M37-L47).

Mr. Barbini presented the next project in need of sewer service, a 50-lot subdivision (Map 37, Lot 47), which lot was officially addressed 139 Meetinghouse Way. Staff and Board members perused a site map of the area to determine the relation of the lot to the Town’s affordable housing development on Meshacket Road. It was noted that the lot in question did not in fact appear to abut Meshacket Road, even though the project’s proposer intended to tie into the sewer main running down that road.

Mr. Barbini said that that what he was presenting that day was predicated on the property owner’s having secured the right to reach Meshacket Road. That said, there was “plenty of capacity” on the Meshacket line, though he was “not sure how they’ll get from A to B.” “The pump station has the capacity,” confirmed Facilities Manager Thompson.

Commissioner Murphy wanted to know if property owners in this area would be required to tie into the sewer system. Mr. Thompson replied that most of the lot was in the Great Pond Watershed and that the Department’s mandate was to reduce nitrogen in the watershed whenever possible. Certainly the Board of Health would frown upon homeowners on this site *not* tying into the sewer system, he added.

Mr. Barbini went through the build-out numbers in an e-mailed memorandum of his which broke down the maximum connections the Meshacket substation could handle. The currently sewered areas and their potentials were: Field Club, Road to the Plains, Kitts Field – 198 pumps; Island Grove – 179 pumps; affordable housing project – 10 pumps; and new subdivision – 50 pumps, totaling 437 pumps.

Calculating the gallons per minute per pump and the number of pumps that could be expected to be operating at once, a maximum of 543 to 575 pumps could operate in the Meshacket substation sector of the system, leaving 106 to 138 additional pumps possible after the completion of the listed projects.

“The question is,” asked Facilities Manager Thompson, “should it be sewered, if we want to comply with the spirit of the agreement?” He added that “the Board of Health would not be thrilled” if such a large development were not tied into the system. “I’m thinking we should encourage them to get it sewered,” he concluded.

Commissioners Murphy and Searle reiterated the principle raised in their previous discussion, making it clear that they were addressing only the advisability of sewerage project before them and were in no way passing judgment on the suitability of the 50-lot project itself. "I'm okay with it [the sewerage]," said Commissioner Murphy. "I am, too," said the Chairman. Facilities Manager Thompson related a story about the Chairman of the Falmouth Wastewater Commission, who when faced with expansion, said, "If you build it, they will come. If you don't build it, they will come anyway."

Chairman Searle stated that the Board of Waste Water Commissioners was in favor of sewerage the 50-lot subdivision and encouraged the developer to pursue the sewerage of the project. Commissioner Murphy seconded the statement of position, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

POWER OUTAGE AND CONTROLLER FAILURE AT DOCK STREET.

Referring to his written report on the August 15 Dock Street Station power outage and controller failure, Facilities Manager Thompson asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Murphy wanted to know if Mr. Thompson had figured out what had caused the problems. Mr. Thompson explained that a control circuit protection device on a subpanel had tripped out. So even though power had been restored, the pumps were not running.

A discussion ensued regarding steps to be taken by the Edgartown Yacht Club and its neighbors to prevent spillage should a similar incident occur. Mr. Thompson had installed a dedicated autodialer alarm on the control panel power feed and had isolated control power from the battery backup feed. He recommended that The Atlantic replace its gravity line with a low-pressure ejector if it wanted to continue to use its cellar, which would only stay dry during pump station malfunctions if the restaurant stopped using water.

Mention was made of a meeting on Monday, August 18, with the Chairman, Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby, Health Agent Matthew E. Poole, the Facilities Manager and Selectman Margaret Serpa, where the incident had been discussed.

Admin Assistant Pia Webster related that her husband was a maintenance technician for Comcast and that the incident in question had been in fact two separate power surges, less than a minute apart, the second stronger than the first. Mr. Webster had been able to confirm this on his laptop at the time of the incident.

Facilities Manager Thompson concluded by saying, "The good news was, I already had an operator in Edgartown [when it happened]."

REPORT: LATERAL BLOCKAGE AND REPLACEMENT AT 10 HIGH ST.

Mr. Thompson referred to his detailed written report on the blocked lateral at 10 High Street (Map 29B, Lot 22) and its aftermath, an incident that commenced on Monday, August 18. The property owner in question, a member of the legal profession, had been "pleading and cajoling" about the Department's being responsible for the necessary on-property work, said the Facilities Manager. "He says the Town's tree did it." But, Mr.

Thompson went on, he had spoken to Sarah Hughes of Martha's Vineyard Insurance, who had assured him that the Town was in the clear and that the homeowner could have purchased a policy that would have covered such a calamity.

The Facilities Manager then went into some detail regarding how the tree roots had infiltrated the main and how the crew had removed from the line "a hairball mass of roots that's denser than hell." He said to expect "a nice, big invoice for this from Tim Creato," the excavator who would be billing the Department for any off-property work.

MAJOR PURCHASES.

The first of the major purchases before the Board was a copier proposal for a Ricoh MP 4022SP Copier, with three quotes forthcoming: DaRosa Corporation, Inc. at \$4,199; Amazon.com at \$4,699; and CopyFaxes.com at \$4,699. Mr. Thompson related that the office's present copier was "from circa 2005" and was spending "a lot of time with Mr. Shemeth." The Board members expressed surprise that the lowest quote had come from the local vendor.

The next planned purchase was a headworks gas detector. The current one, said Mr. Thompson, dated from about 1995, and parts for repairs were no longer available. Ritec Environmental offered two options, one for \$6,635, the other for \$4,450. Sentrol Inc. had come up with a package totaling \$9,007, and Safety Instruments' offer came to \$5,171.20. Commissioner Murphy wondered which Mr. Thompson preferred. The Facilities Manager responded that he liked compatibility and dealing with the same service people. So he would probably go with Ritec Environmental.

The third large purchase involved the upgrade of the Dunham Road controller. The current controller, said Mr. Thompson, dated from 1989. "When I showed it to the F.R. Mahoney guy, he laughed," recounted the Facilities Manager, who added that he had the transducer for it but had not gotten the full quotes yet from F.R. Mahoney. The total of the three purchases would be around \$15,000. He explained that as was the case with the gas detector, the quotes did not include installation by Cole Powers.

"You need it, get it," said Chairman Searle, adding, "Go for it." Commissioner Murphy agreed.

DISCUSSION/VOTE: AMENDED SECTION 7, ARTICLE XV, RULES & REGULATIONS (FAILED SYSTEM RATE).

The Board members considered changes to Section 7 of Article XV of the *Sewer Rules & Regulations* to reflect their vote in the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2014 for a reduced rate for waste from enhanced systems. The text for the new Section 7 presented by staff read as follows:

SECTION 7. FAILED SYSTEMS REQUIRING PUMPOUTS.

Any residential or commercial on-site wastewater disposal system in Edgartown which is deemed to be failed pursuant to CMR 15.3 (all), or any

enhanced nitrogen reduction system in Edgartown deemed by the Board of Health to be underperforming and in need of service, shall be allowed to have its pumpouts disposed of at the Wastewater Facility for the current posted rate for Failed Systems provided a letter issued by the Board of Health requesting the reduced rate is submitted to the Waste Water Commission. The reduced rate shall remain in effect for a period of 60 days from the issuance of this letter, unless an extension is granted by the Waste Water Commission.

The Waste Water Commission may grant an extension if it is determined that the extension is needed due to delays caused by someone other than the home owner.

Discussion followed regarding a phrase in the first sentence of the first paragraph, namely, "...or any enhanced nitrogen reduction system in Edgartown deemed by the Board of Health to be underperforming and in need of service..." There was disagreement as to whether the systems in question were necessarily "underperforming" at the time the pumpouts would be required. Admin Assistant Webster suggested using "and/or" so that the phrase read as follows: "...or any enhanced nitrogen reduction system in Edgartown deemed by the Board of Health to be underperforming and/or in need of service..." The Board members and the Facilities Manager agreed. The amended section read as follows:

SECTION 7. FAILED SYSTEMS REQUIRING PUMPOUTS.

Any residential or commercial on-site wastewater disposal system in Edgartown which is deemed to be failed pursuant to CMR 15.3 (all), or any enhanced nitrogen reduction system in Edgartown deemed by the Board of Health to be underperforming and/or in need of service, shall be allowed to have its pumpouts disposed of at the Wastewater Facility for the current posted rate for Failed Systems provided a letter issued by the Board of Health requesting the reduced rate is submitted to the Waste Water Commission. The reduced rate shall remain in effect for a period of 60 days from the issuance of this letter, unless an extension is granted by the Waste Water Commission.

The Waste Water Commission may grant an extension if it is determined that the extension is needed due to delays caused by someone other than the home owner.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept Section 7 as amended, seconded by Chairman Searle. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

JULY AND AUGUST FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORTS.

Among other topics from July, Mr. Thompson noted what a reliable and efficient vendor Howland Disposal Services had turned out to be. He spoke of how accommodating the Howland crew had been when it was discovered that Synagro, the incinerator service in

Woonsocket, would be shutting down temporarily. “We’re behind on sludge,” Mr. Thompson said.

The Facilities Manager also provided an update on Operator Dale Morgan, who had been on medical leave since mid-June.

As for August news, Commissioner Murphy inquired whether there had been some issue with odor. It’s the man who cried wolf, replied Mr. Thompson, who explained that the person who had been complaining had once moaned about the smell of chlorine at a time that the plant was not using chlorine. The Facilities Manager added that Commissioner Scott Ellis, who lives on Hye Road, was going to be “my new odor sensor.”

JULY FINANCIAL REPORTS; AUGUST UPDATES.

The financial reports started with a look at the FY15 Operating Budget Expenditures Report as of August 31, possible, noted Admin Assistant Webster, because the bills submitted that week were not payable until September. Facilities Manager Thompson pointed to the more depleted of the accounts, like 0144006/585010 Repair/Replace Equipment, which with \$19,893.68 expended, was already 44.2 percent used up. Another was 0144005/587000 Replacement Equipment, which was 23.0 percent spent down.

Mr. Thompson said he had been holding off on some equipment maintenance due to the unexpected expenditures in other areas. “I’m concerned,” commented Commissioner Murphy.

The Facilities Manager continued that it was simply “stuff that broke” and instances of “we’re-not-making-your-control-panel-part-anymore.” Mr. Thompson said it would come down to having to ask for additional funds at a Special Town Meeting in the fall. It was agreed that at their next Regular Meeting time should be spent on Operating Budget Expenditures and Department needs in FY15.

Admin Assistant Webster went over a chart she had drawn up comparing FY14 and FY15 septage volumes, revenues and collections. As of August 31, 2014, Septage Billed Collected Receipts – at \$101,794.78 – had seen a 1.68 percent decrease. (The last deposit for the month had been submitted to the Treasurer.)

As of August 28, Septage Billed Revenue – at \$97,454.25 – had decreased by 9.69 percent when compared to that for the same date in 2013. And as of August 28, 2014, septage volume in all categories – at 454,291 gallons – had decreased by 5.35 percent.

The rest of the reports in their binders, said Mrs. Webster, were from July and basically “old news.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

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

The Board turned to the **Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 7, 2014**. There being no discussion or comment, Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve, and Chairman Searle provided a second. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or comment, the Chairman asked a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Murphy offered a motion to adjourn, with Chairman Searle providing a second. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 5:00 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