

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017
AMENDED DECEMBER 3, 2020**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Scott Ellis, Acting Chairman
Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman

EWWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Rock, Plant Operator
Mr. David Thompson, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

OTHER[S] PRESENT:

Richard J. Barbini, Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn, Engineer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2017, 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. Acting Chairman Scott Ellis called the meeting to order. Also attending from the Board was Waste Water Commissioner Sean E. Murphy.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSAL: RICHARD BARBINI ON DUARTE CIRCLE SEWER EXTENSION.

With engineer Richard J. Barbini of Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn ready for his presentation, the Acting Chairman elected to begin with New Business and a proposal to extend the sewer main down Duarte Circle from Road to the Plains. Mr. Barbini began by apologizing for his earlier conclusion in consultation with the Department that with the 30 pumps added with the Vickers Street extension, the Road to the Plains Project was close to its maximum flow capacity. Further, he had not realized that the Board of Waste Water Commissioners had established any sort of final cap for that line, with Vickers Street being the last piece to be added to the Road to the Plains system.

The controlling pumps for whether people can tie in would at The Field Club, Mr. Barbini explained, “and they’re still under the limit. I’d thought they [the pumps at Duarte Circle] would kick it over. But it *definitely* doesn’t, they’re still well within the possibility ... At full capacity, full build-out of *everything*, Duarte Circle won’t affect it. It’ll still be good.”

“So I’m here to ask for a preliminary approval on Duarte Circle,” Mr. Barbini continued, “with the proviso that we come back in with our plans and the whole thing... I didn’t want to do all the plans and spend the money if you guys were going to say no. So that’s where we are.” He added that if after Duarte Circle the Board members and staff felt they were at where they wanted to be, at that point maybe they ought to “close it down.” Then any time anyone asked him about it, he would just say no, just as he had in the case of West Tisbury Road.

“I thought we *had* closed it down.” remarked Administrative Assistant Pia Webster. “We had *not*,” said Facilities Manager David Thompson, “not *officially*. At the thirty pumps for Vickers, that put us at the tipping point. These eight pumps are about five percent of the Road to the Plains capacity.” “It works statistically, okay?” stressed Mr. Barbini, who described how the lines were designed by figuring out the gallonage when a certain number of pumps were turned on for a certain amount of time each day. And even if the pumps worked past the point of peak efficiency, they *still ran*, though with a little lower flow, he emphasized. “The system doesn’t *die*,” he said. “With these eight, it keeps it under the limit ... for their maximum flow ... But it’s *close*.”

Commissioner Murphy confirmed with Mr. Barbini that Duarte Circle would tie in to the Road to the Plains line. So if we allow this, they’re going to have to lay the whole system, as they did on Vickers? asked Commissioner Murphy. Right, replied Mr. Barbini, only it would be just two people tying in and paying for it. Did we not have to have a minimum number of tie-ins on Vickers to make the project viable? inquired Commissioner Murphy. “Three, I think,” answered Mr. Barbini. “No, on Vickers it was *five* that we needed,” stated Administrative Assistant Webster.

The Facilities Manager explained that in the case of Duarte Circle, a single pump would probably be adequate to maintain the flow. The key was, stressed Mr. Barbini, that it was the people at the end of the line who were tying in. True, agreed Mrs. Webster, “the people who are making the noise for it are at the very end of the cul-de-sac,” she said, adding, “They’ve already built their house.”

“Are you okay with it, Dave?” Commissioner Murphy asked the Facilities Manager. “I’m troubled by it in a number of ways,” replied Mr. Thompson, “because we’d thought we put a lid on it the last time, though we hadn’t *officially* put a lid on it. Our requirement is that people get an engineer to come in and make sure we’re there. There’s also a whiff of conflict there, so it becomes incumbent upon us at some point to make the call. Because if somebody comes forward with deep pockets and wants a project done and can get an engineer onboard, the engineer then goes through our procedure and then says indeed it can be done, then our hands are kind of tied...”

Facilities Manager Thompson continued, “One of the reasons I wanted to stop at Vickers was, I want to leave a little in there, ay, for just an engineering cushion in high season, because I usually figure these things ... They call the upper limit eighty percent usually, and there’s actually wiggle room left in there. And I also want to leave some wiggle room for the Town. Who knows, down the road, affordable housing, the Town decides to do something down at the Town yard there and convert it to some different purpose or put in a firehouse or whatever? I want to leave us enough pumps to do that.”

Mr. Thompson pointed out that on Upper Main Street, where capacity was just about spoken for, two pumps had been reserved for a possible future public bathroom at the Dark Woods parking lot. In the case of the Town's affordable housing project on Meshacket Road, the capacity had been built into the original plan. "But we never know what's going to happen down the road," he added.

Mr. Barbini stated that he totally disagreed with Mr. Thompson's assessment of Upper Main Street, arguing that Upper Main Street included all of the Dark Woods development. So there was still plenty of capacity there; people just had not tied in yet. "If people don't build it, you tell them to go to aiche e double ell when they come in here, okay?" he asserted. "Same thing with Road to the Plains."

Commissioner Murphy posed a question: If ten years in the future the Town proposed affordable housing in the area and five of the eight houses on Duarte Circle had not yet tied in, "are we duty-bound to tie them in?" "Yes," replied Mr. Thompson, "because you've kind of told them that they can." "If there's a wastewater line in front of your house and your system fails," Commissioner Murphy pointed out, you have to tie in. Mr. Barbini said that if there is a vacant lot and the sewer line runs in front of it, the owner would have to tie in before building. A brief discussion ensued regarding the Department's actual ability to reserve capacity.

Plant Operator Joseph Rock wanted to know if the Katama Airfield would be able to install a public bathroom tied in to the wastewater system, if the Town wanted to do that. "No can do," replied Mr. Barbini. He then adjusted his answer to say that it *could* be done but that there "ain't no way you can do it financially." Mr. Thompson pointed out that the airfield was not in the Edgartown Great Pond Watershed.

Mr. Rock asked Mr. Barbini to speak further about what happened when the system operated at maximum capacity. "The system never stops," said Mr. Barbini, "but if the system is overloaded, it doesn't mean that the pump just sits there and spins, it doesn't pump any sewage. It just means it pumps ten and a half gallons a minute versus eleven." Responding to another query from Mr. Rock, Mr. Barbini said he did not think the pumps would run at higher amperages. But would there be more service calls in that area? wondered Mr. Rock. If there were more service calls, said Mr. Barbini, it would be because there were more pumps.

"I do take exception to a couple of things that Pia [Webster] said, I really do," declared Mr. Barbini. "One, these people came to me because they were told there's no way Vickers can be done. They were going to buy a lot on Vickers and they didn't because it wasn't going to get sewer. It was *nothing* to do with the size of their house, all right? I think that's a very false statement... The problem is, when you build on Duarte Circle now with a septic system, you put in a twenty-five-thousand-dollar septic system, okay? So it requires monitoring all year long, and it requires, there's power..." So they went for more bedrooms than the lot allowed, interjected Mr. Thompson. "Yeah," said Mr. Barbini, "but you have to, because the lots are so tiny."

"So it's not deep pockets," Mr. Barbini went on. "They can get more bedrooms with sewer, and if they can get people to tie in, it's cheaper than to put the septic systems in. So it's not deep pockets. It's a financial consideration... And Pia's right about one thing: Everybody wants more bedrooms. They want more bedrooms, but *they don't fill the houses*. The majority of them don't fill the houses. I know Pia's going to say that there's rental people and they fill every house. But I can guarantee it. Seven-bedroom houses don't have fourteen people in them year-round. There's no way." "The other thing is," remarked Mr. Thompson, "when the DEP ... set the design parameters for this system, they did it at a hundred and ten gallons per bedroom per day... It's about *twice* the actual flow."

“I guess the question is,” said Mr. Barbini, “Do you allow Duarte Circle, or do you put the moratorium on and say, ‘Road to the Plains is done’? I think it’s either-or.” “If we were to allow this,” asked Commissioner Murphy, “is there still enough potential capacity for, you know, what you were talking about, affordable housing, a fire station, or whatever?” “Yeah,” replied Mr. Thompson, “there’s still realistically another eight to ten pumps that could be done before we were like over the limit.” The Facilities Manager reminded them that it was not the flow that mattered but the “simultaneous run factor” or the number of pumps running at the same time. The discussion continued.

“I guess what we’re looking at here is, no further extensions on Road to the Plains unless the Commission rules that it’s within the best interests of the Town,” stated Mr. Thompson, adding, “Does that make sense to you?” The Commissioners, Mr. Barbini and Mr. Thompson then went over which roads were included in the Road to the Plains Sewer Project. Commissioner Murphy confirmed with the Facilities Manager that sewerage Duarte Circle would benefit the Town since it lay in the Edgartown Great Pond Watershed. And it was the only remaining extension off Road to the Plains left off the original plan that had not been put in, said Mr. Thompson.

“This design includes all the pumps at The Field Club, all the pumps on Road to the Plains, all the pumps in Kitts Field, all the pumps on Vickers Way [*sic*] and all the other ones we’ve got going all on the side,” enumerated Mr. Barbini. “It’s like five hundred and forty-eight,” said the Facilities Manager. “This is a huge expansion that’s going on here,” stressed Mr. Barbini, “this is the biggest one, all because of The Field Club.”

Commissioner Murphy wanted to know how Mr. Barbini’s latest proposal had come about. “They came back in to me,” recalled Mr. Barbini, “and they said, ‘We talked to them [Department staff], and they said absolutely no way. But we’d like to have you look at it again.’ And I honestly forgot that we talked about shutting it off to be honest with you, I really did. I had it in my computer, so I plugged in the eight and where it ties in and everything else and then I knew we had talked about being *near* the end, and it came out that it was fine. And I said, okay, I’ll go talk to the sewer department.”

“And I’ll reiterate that I wasn’t saying it was at capacity,” said Mr. Thompson. “I was saying we were getting to the point where ... when DEP approved Road to the Plains, DEP had to approve *all* sewer extensions. Now, anything that’s under thirty thousand gallons, it falls to the Waste Water Commission. They don’t want to mess with anything anymore. So they handed the ball off to us. So now we have to get the professional guidance that we need to decide where this wants to go.”

Commissioner Murphy wondered if this matter was time-sensitive. When Mr. Barbini indicated that it was not, Commissioner Murphy suggested that the Board members wait until Chairman Glen S. Searle was present before coming to a decision on the Duarte Circle proposal. Acting Chairman Ellis agreed. Mr. Barbini reiterated his recommendation that should the Board approve his proposal, they nonetheless impose a moratorium on any additional pumps on the Road to the Plains line. It was agreed to include the proposal as an agenda item for the December Regular Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORT: DRYLET AQUA TRIAL PERIOD RESULTS.

“It didn’t work,” reported the Facilities Manager regarding the pilot test by the Waste Water Treatment Plant of DryLet’s Aqua Assist solution by having personnel observe whether it could decrease bio-solids generation and associated operational costs. He added, “The general opinion was we didn’t see

anything significant.” At that point, he said, the Plant was just a single container behind where they would have been without having used the solution. The DryLet people were interested in conducting another trial period in the spring, at a time of lower flow.

REPORT: GRIT CONTAINER DISPOSAL WITH TOWN OF BOURNE ISWM.

Mr. Thompson referred the Board members to a chart listing the costs of using the recently acquired container to hold septage grit and screenings, which was then hauled by Bruno’s Rolloff to the Town of Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management Center, versus the cost of bagging the grit and screenings and taking that to the M.V. Refuse District. The fee to Bruno’s for each container round trip was \$925 and the fee to Bourne ISWM was \$50 per ton, with the first container holding 14.22 tons for a cost of \$711, bringing the fees for the first container to \$1,636. On the other hand, the Refuse District charged \$184 per ton; so the contents of the first container would have cost \$2,616.48 if brought to the MVRD. Commissioner Murphy wanted to know how many containers would be filled in the course of a year. Four to six, replied Mr. Thompson. So at a total cost of \$15,000, the container would pay for itself in savings in about three years.

UPDATES: ONGOING PLANT UPGRADES.

Mr. Thompson reported that the Facility had received the **Mechanical Screen Bar** from Duperon Corporation of Saginaw, Mich. and that he had to get an electrician to wire it up.

The Facilities Manager passed out a **UV Replacement Project** proposal drawn up by Ian B. Catlow of Tighe & Bond, in which the total for the project came to \$274,304.80. In boldface print, though, were costs – such as crew housing and bypass pumping – that were unnecessary “because we did it our way,” explained Mr. Thompson. A company called Glasco UV of Mahwah, N.J. was, in effect, creating a “drop-in system” that would cost only \$100,000, resulting in a savings to the Town of more than \$119,000.

Mr. Thompson reported that he had a quote coming in for the **Flow Meter Replacement**. He remarked that “everybody wants to sell me an **Air Dryer**. Nobody wants to install it. I’ve been chasing people since May on this.”

REPORT: SYNAGRO SHUTDOWN NOVEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 13.

The Facilities Manager related that the Woonsocket, R.I. location of Synagro Northeast would be having one of its regular shutdowns, this one lasting for almost three weeks. So he had arranged for container pickups the following Monday and Tuesday. “We’re managing it,” he commented.

NEW BUSINESS [Continued]:

REPORT: RESCHEDULED NOV 15 FINCOM/CAPITAL PROGRAMS MEETING.

Mr. Thompson did not know at that time if or when the cancelled meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee and the Capital Programs Committee would be rescheduled. He directed the Commissioners’ attention to the chart titled “Capital Estimates from 2016 Waste Water Capital Improvement Plan (CIP),” which, he said was what he had sent to the FinCom. The CPC, he added, had asked him to base the FY19 figures on 2018 dollars.

The Board also considered a letter from the Capital Program Committee to the Board of Selectmen with its FY19 recommendations. Among them was a call for the Selectmen to consider a plan “for a consolidation of Wastewater’s multi year annual projects into a few *[sic]* number of larger initiatives, which could bring significant cost savings for the Town and, if necessary, funded with debt that may have less impact past FY22.” (A number of outstanding bond issues are due to mature in FY22.)

The Facilities Manager noted that it looked as if the CPC had left out the Septage Storage Tank from the Department’s FY19 request.

DISCUSSION/VOTE: FY19 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES.

Mr. Thompson went through the 11 proposed Warrant Articles for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The first one, for **\$24,000 for Town Hall and Chase Road Substation Generator Receptacles and Manual Transfer Switches**, he explained, was intended as a precautionary measure. “Then if there was a failure, we would have a Plan B,” he said. “Down the road, we’ll purchase a generator and a bypass pump.”

The second Article was for **\$65,000 to Upgrade Belt Filter Press Control Panels**. This, Mr. Thompson said, had been deferred from FY18. Article 3 called for **\$510,000 to Replace Dewatered Sludge Pump**, which was 23 years old and had an obsolete control system. This, too, had been deferred from FY18. The fourth Article asked for **\$700,000 for an Integrated System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System**, replacing the obsolete electronics for alarm notification and process control at the Waste Water Plant.

Article 5 asked for **\$1,560,000 for a Replacement Septage Storage Tank**. This was the item, as the Facilities Manager had mentioned earlier, that the Capital Program Committee had left off its final list of recommended projects. Article 6 requested **\$650,000 for the Dunham Road Pump Station Upgrade**, replacing pumps, controls and the backup generator at the 30-year-old installation and removing a buried fuel tank from the site. The **Dock Street Redundant Run Float Upgrade, at \$8,000**, was the subject of Article 7. This project would integrate an alarm float system at the station into the existing controls while also providing a backup pump operation and notification in the event of a signal loss to the primary controller.

Mr. Thompson said that the \$14,000 figure for Article 8 should be changed to **\$18,000 to Replace the Air Dryer on the Compressed Air Systems**. Article 9 asked for **\$185,000 for the Scum Pump Replacement**, to replace a 23-year-old pump with one with a higher capacity. Article 10 was the standard Equip Repair Replace Upgrade or **Equipment and Collection System Request at \$67,000**, and Article 11 continued the **\$6,500 request associated with a FEMA Grant Audit**.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the FY19 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles as amended, seconded by Acting Chairman Ellis. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE: FY19 OPERATING BUDGET.

The Board members considered the Facilities Manager’s FY19 Draft Operating Budget. Mr. Thompson related that he still did not have the final figures for staff salaries. He then pointed to various changes to the Expenditures Budget. For instance, the figure for Howland Disposal Services was slightly down, while the budget for Utilities - Electrical had been raised by 5.4 percent, since the Department had come up short in FY17. The budget for Utilities – Heat remained the same.

As had been discussed in earlier meetings, Mr. Thompson continued, the Special Services budget had been decimated in FY17, exceeding budget by more than 50 percent, due in no small part to the \$15,000 spent on the engineering for the Bar Screen. In FY19 that should be under better control. And while he had bumped up Advertising, which had increased quite a bit in recent years because of Capital Projects, he had decreased the amounts for Mileage Reimbursement and Out-of-State Travel. Overall, the Expenditures portion of the proposed FY19 Operating Budget showed a 2.5 percent increase in spending, concluded Mr. Thompson.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the FY19 Operating Budget, seconded by Acting Chairman Ellis. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORTS.

The Facilities Manager pointed to a Support & Warranty Renewal Authorization agreement in the amount of \$1,600 with Elemech, Inc. that he had signed on November 13. He said he wanted to keep the Board members informed about any contracts undertaken.

Among the items highlighted from the Chief Operator's Report was his October 24 meeting to work out operational issues at the Dock Street Station and the panel at Town Hall with engineers from the Robert B. Our Co., Inc.; Tighe & Bond; and Xylem Inc. Commissioner Murphy wanted to know if the Dock Street Station was "actually not working." "The pumps are running dry," answered Mr. Thompson.

In other news, the crew had accomplished the aeration swap-over. "I have to hand it to Ted Van Gerven," remarked Mr. Thompson of one of his Plant Operators. "He got ninety-five percent of the paint in that channel out of there." He added that Mr. Van Gerven had been assisted by Junior Operators Will Meader and Patrick Hickey.

FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Administrative Assistant Webster referred the Board members to a chart titled "FY18 Article & Capital Spending Pulled from Operating Budget" which showed the following: a total of \$15,328.85 spent out of Special Services and the Equip Repair Replace Upgrade (ERRU) Account for the Grit and Screening Container and its Platform; \$2,498.94 out of Special Services for engineering services for the Influent Screen; \$1,561.00 out of the ERRU Account for overrun on the Fire Alarm Replacement Project; and \$7,414.00 out of the ERRU Account for the Lab Roof Replacement Project Change Order. These expenditure overruns, said Mrs. Webster, came to \$26,802.79 and explained 88 percent of the more than \$30,000.00 in Operating Budget expenditure overruns at this point in the fiscal year.

Turning to Septage Revenue figures as of November 16, at \$227,102.06 the Department was seeing growth of 11.1 percent over the previous fiscal year on the same day, when Revenue stood at \$204,352.22. Volume figures showed 993,586 gallons in FY18, a 7.3 percent increase over the same period in FY17, at 926,176 gallons.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Acting Chairman Ellis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting, which Commissioner Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Scott Ellis, Acting Chairman

Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner