

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023**

**WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman  
Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner  
Mr. Walter A. Morrison, Commissioner

**EWWD STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. William G. Burke, Facilities Manager  
Mr. Joseph Rock, Chief Operator  
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. David Bouck, Watershed Outreach Manager, Great Pond Foundation  
Mr. Ted Courtney, Proprietor, The Port Hunter  
Ms. Juliet Mulinare, Chair, Master Plan Steering Committee  
Mr. Robbie Robinson, Waterfront Builders Inc.  
Mr. Daniel O. Roop, PE, Project Manager, Tighe & Bond

**PREFATORY REMARKS**

This being a teleconferenced meeting, Admin Assistant Pia Webster read into the record a prepared statement titled "Introduction to Teleconference," outlining then-Governor Baker's extension of emergency accommodations; and including cautionary words about the public nature of the video conference and the means by which those listening could obtain copies of meeting materials.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom teleconference app. At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order and read into the record a written statement titled "Teleconference Meeting Ground Rules." Public comment would be allowed in this meeting during the Old and New Business sections, the Chairman announced. Also present from the Board were Waste Water Commissioners Scott Ellis and Walter A. Morrison.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**VOTE: ACCEPT GAP III ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING.**

Facilities Manager William G. Burke reported that Mass DEP had awarded the Department a Gap III Energy Grant of up to \$200,000, which would be used to replace six pneumatic pumps with six Penn Valley pumps. These funds would be combined with financial support from the Cape Light Compact,

as well as the Green Communities program, resulting in a net expenditure by the Department of around \$75,000. Commissioner Ellis made a **motion to accept the Gap III Energy Grant Program Funding**, seconded by the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously by voice and hand vote.

**UPDATE: TIGHE & BOND ON CIP PROJECTS & PROGRESS ON CWMP, PLUS VOTE ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT-SLUDGE PUMP REPLACEMENT.**

Reporting on his firm's progress on the **Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan**, Daniel O. Roop of Tighe & Bond said that the Needs Analysis was about 75 percent done. They were waiting for updated census data from UMass, since the 2020 census projections provided by that institution to the M.V. Commission had been exceeded significantly. They were also expecting data on Calendar Year 2022 Building Permits. Chairman Searle wanted to know when the Board members would be hearing about allowable increases in wastewater flows in the business districts. Mr. Roop thought that he could report on that in the February Regular Meeting.

The Commissioners turned to an agreement with Tighe & Bond titled "Wastewater Engineering Services Proposal – Sludge Pump Replacement Project." Mr. Burke related that he had spoken to the Town Accountant and that pending the availability of the grant support, funding would come from the ATM 18 Article 71 Capital Projects Account. Chairman Searle made a **motion to accept the agreement with Tighe & Bond titled "Wastewater Engineering Services Proposal – Sludge Pump Replacement Project" at a cost of \$74,500; and further, that pending the availability of the grant funds, to pay any T&B invoices stemming from the fulfillment of this contract out of the ATM 18 Article 71 Capital Projects Account.** Commissioner Ellis offered a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice and hand vote.

Additionally, Mr. Roop reported on a preconstruction meeting on the **Installation of the Dewatering Sludge Pump Hydraulic Pack & Control Panel Replacement Project** with Staff and the Pride Environmental team. The installation had been delayed until April or May. Progress was being made on the **SCADA System Upgrade Project**, and a team from T&B would be on-Island the following week to work with the crew from Fall River Electrical Associates and ITS on installing the control panels. Also the following week, Sam Taugher of Tighe & Bond would be overseeing the **force main repair near the Chase Road Station** by Robert B. Our Co. Inc.

**UPDATE: GREEN HOME PROJECT – 490 EDGARTOWN-VH ROAD.**

Reference was made to an emailed update from Chris Alley of Schofield Barbini & Hoehn. Then the Chairman made a **motion to continue the update and discussion of the Green Home Project until a future meeting.** Mr. Ellis provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by vote and hand vote.

**UPDATE: JOSEPH ROCK ON ONSITE AFFORDABLE STAFF HOUSING.**

Chief Operator Joseph Rock reported that he had spoken to Building & Zoning Inspector Reid Milne about onsite affordable housing for Department Staff. Ms. Milne had explained where the building envelopes were on the campus, along West Tisbury Road; the first thing to do was to get a survey. So Mr. Rock had met with Doug Hoehn, who had provided him with an estimate of \$7,360 for the survey. Mr. Rock's next stop would be the Affordable Housing Committee to request funding for the survey.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REPORT/VOTE: PROPOSAL FOR TWO NEW G2 LICENSED POSITIONS.**

Facilities Manager Burke related that the Personnel Board had voted to recommend adjustments to the Plant Operator job descriptions to create two Collection Systems Operator positions. Furthermore, they had placed any decision regarding this action in the hands of the Board of Waste Water Commissioners. The new position would be a Grade E. Mr. Burke explained further that the collection system constituted the greater part of the worth of the Plant and that with two C7s onsite, a G4 was not as important at this particular Facility. Commissioner Ellis made a **motion to accept the new position and job description of Collections Systems Operator**, seconded by Chairman Searle. The motion carried unanimously by voice and hand vote.

**REPORT/VOTE: CONTRACT FOR SLUDGE DISPOSAL FOR 20 YEARS OR LESS.**

Mr. Burke explained the efficacy of entering into a longer-term sludge disposal agreement than the three-year length that had been the Department's practice. Synagro was offering long-term contracts at the current rate plus the annual Boston Consumer Price Index adjustments. Any contracts over three years required a Town Meeting Vote, with a maximum of 20 years allowed by law. Mr. Burke expected the contracts to have five- to seven-year terms. Commissioner Ellis made a **motion to enter into longer-term sludge disposal contracts, for lengths of 20 years or less**. Commissioner Morrison provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice and hand vote.

**REPORT/VOTE: ACCEPT PROPOSED FY24 OPERATING BUDGET.**

Facilities Manager Burke stated that the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 had basically remained flat except for increases for sludge removal contracts and electricity. Chairman Searle made a **motion to accept the FY24 Operating Budget as presented**, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. The motion carried unanimously by voice and hand vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT.**

Facilities Manager Burke spoke of problems at the Plant with the Belt Filter Press and the low-solids sludge loads resulting. The fact was, Synagro was considering not bidding on the next three-year Sludge Disposal Contract because the recurrent percentage of solids of less than 19 percent violated the Materials Management Agreement signed in December 2019. So Mr. Burke was going to Boston the following Monday to speak with representatives of Synagro about his workaround for the problem. Second, a leak in the force main from the Chase Road Station to the Plant had been discovered. Robert Our had looked at it earlier in the day and would barge over materials for the repair the following week.

**CHIEF OPERATOR'S REPORT.**

Chief Operator Rock reported that the Total Nitrogen for the month of December had been 0.66 mg/L and 1.21 mg/L, for a monthly average of 0.94 mg/L reported to Mass DEP. These were remarkable numbers. Some storms had moved through during the month, and the challenge had been met. At the end of the year, he said, his crew had been concentrating on maintenance.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

Admin Assistant Webster pointed to the \$100,800 “surplus” on the expenditures side of the Operating Budget, with more the \$50,000 available in the Equip, Repair, Replace & Upgrade Account alone. It would not be a stretch, she said, to pay for the Chase Road force main leak repair out of the Operating Budget. Another possibility was the ATM 18 Article 71 Capital Projects Account, which would have about \$170,000 of uncommitted funds remaining after committing the Tighe & Bond Sludge Pump Replacement Services Contract.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

There being no questions or comments, on a motion by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Scott, the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2022** were approved unanimously by voice and hand 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 and hand vote. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 3:43 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

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Walter A. Morrison, Commissioner