



*Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners*

*John Hasenjaeger, Chair
Pradeep Mishra, Clerk
William Abbott, Member
Patrick Fasanello, Member
Jeffrey Fisher, Member*

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 13, 2023

6:30 P.M.

135 School Street

Select Board Meeting Room

This meeting was taped and will be available on Walpole Media's YouTube Channel

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, March 13, 2023 at the Town Hall, 135 School Street, Select Board Meeting Room. The meeting is called to order by Board Chair John Hasenjaeger at 6:30 p.m.

Present at the Meeting:

Sewer and Water Commissioners:

John Hasenjaeger, William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello, Jeffrey Fisher, Pradeep Mishra

Other Participants:

Scott Gustafson, Sewer and Water Superintendent, Rick Mattson, Director of Public Works, Stephen Nunnery, Sewer and Water Asst. Supt.

62 Walpole Residents

Appointments

1. 7:00 North Walpole Residents' Interest in Sewer Connection (Emails)

Mr. Hasenjaeger explains to the residents in attendance the reasoning behind the meeting. Mr. Abbott presents the proposed extension and ballpark costs for the impacted residents.

Resident: Raised a question regarding the degree of confidence in the estimate.

Mr. Mattson explains that construction costs have been rising between 3% and 5% annually.

Resident from 589 High St: Raised a question on betterment with regard to selling your home. Her understanding is that if a betterment is not paid before selling the house, the homeowner has to pay the betterment in full before they sell, otherwise a lien is put on the house.

Discussion is had in this regard with the Board members.

Resident: When was the last time a project was done like this?

Mr. Hasenjaeger explains that this was a project that was proposed for Hitching Post Drive but the residents turned it down.

Resident: Would the town allow a second meter for irrigation?

Mr. Abbott responds that it is allowed. A second meter makes no sense for someone not on sewer, a second meter makes no sense.

Mike Power, Chickering Ln: Never able to get town water, he has a well. Where does that leave him? Mr. Abbott explains that there are other residents in the area in the same situation. Generally, the town would attach a meter on their well.

Richard Russo, Buckwood Dr.: Does the homeowner incur the cost of removal?

Board: Yes.

What would the approximate cost be to dig through his yard to connect to the lateral as his septic is under his deck in the rear of his home and he is on ledge in the front.

Board: There are many variables.

John Hatch: Question regarding red zone. How are they collecting feedback on votes?

Board: This is the first step and they can get a better idea with all residents in attendance what the “for” and “against” ratio would be.

Mary Shaheen: Concern that her neighbor also got the letter and they’re not on sewer. Could it be fewer than 155 residents? Also, could they tie in to neighbors sewer lines on their own and not be a part of the project.

Patrick Fasanello explains background and history of MWRA and its benefits

Bob Scrant, High St: No interested, he doesn’t want a lien on his property.

Straw vote taken – the majority are opposed to the sewer program.

Eric Minkowicz, Mill Brook – Questioned the length of time and impact on traffic in the area.

Floreen Knight: If the plan were approved, ow long would it take before the project starts.

Dave Fordham, High St: Are any of the informational pamphlets handouts available online?

Bob Ross, Ridge Rd: Are there alternatives for people who need to replace their septic systems that are permitted by the Town and/or the state?

Further discussion had regarding undeveloped lots and the developer is able to vote for/against the plan for as many house as they have developed.

Abatements:

No abatements to be voted on.

Superintendents Status Report:

Quiet as far as water leaks or freeze-ups. Redundant waterline project for Central Storage continues. Water main replacement project moving on to Rose Ave.

Correspondence:

1. 3/2/2023 B. Abbott Memo – Fire Suppression Rate

Mr. Abbott discusses a resident with a 4-unit apartment building surprised to get \$500 bill. He further discusses possibly changing it into tiers.

Mr. Fasanello comments that he agrees that this plan works and expresses his concern that the tier system Mr. Abbott is proposing does not come back modified by the department.

2. 3/2/2023 B. Abbott Memo – Water Production
Discussion had with regard to increased water production.

3. S & W Revenue Report
Discussion had on revenue report.

Old Business:

1. MWRA Connection
Discussion with regard to Weston & Sampson appearing at next meeting.
2. Jarvis Farm

Discussion:

1. Meter to Cash Report
Mr. Mishra brings up questions regarding monthly billing/what is the cost? Also, what are the policy changes.
Mr. Gustafson responds that this was brought up at last meeting and upon further discussion, it was a significant amount of money but was unsure of exact amount.
Mr. Mishra requests a return response for figures on billing cost. Mr. Abbott further explains the Munis system with regard to tier rates, etc.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott ***Seconded*** by Mr. Fisher to adjourn at 8:34pm

Date Meeting Minutes Accepted: June 12, 2023