



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

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

**Monday, September 13, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street. The meeting is called to order by Board Chair John Spillane at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the Meeting:

Sewer and Water Commissioners:

John Spillane, John Hasenjaeger, William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello and Pradeep Mishra

Other Participants:

Scott Gustafson, Acting Sewer & Water Superintendent, Rick Mattson, Director of Public Works, James Johnson, Town Administrator and Mary Timilty

Appointments

7:05 p.m. Appointment with Town Administration regarding Articles 10, 11, 12 & 13 for Fall Town Meeting

Mr. Abbott comments this is the Capital Budget program the Board approved at a previous meeting and summarizes the Articles and these would not occur every Town Meeting as they are specific to the Capital that was approved by the Board. Mr. Fasanello asks Mr. Gustafson about Article #11 on the I&I how it worked out. Mr. Abbott responds that the money we would use to correct I&I would come from the MWRA Loan Program. Phases 10 & 11 were the most recent ones with 0 percent interest and that provides us with sufficient money rather than charging the I&I Fees which the Board was sued and settled. Further discussion is had. Mr. Fasanello comments according to the MWRA, Walpole is the only town who had a big storm a couple years ago and the only Town that did not have surcharges or had sewer coming up on the street. Mr. Mattson speaks on the I&I program and how the Board changed the I&I based on the litigation and the settlement was made how the Board would address the I&I. Mr. Mattson continues that what the DEP and MWRA mandates is that the Town has a program in place and does not tell you how we have to fund the program. Mr. Mattson comments that given the amount of I&I we have removed over the past years in the 10 phases it has been a significant amount and it is becoming more and more difficult to find these gallons and as we find the gallons it become increasingly more and more expensive to remove the gallons. Mr. Mattson updates, we are at a point where we have a good amount of funding in an I&I account. One of these articles will allow the town to take advantage of the next two phases of the MWRA Grant Program to keep the program going. Mr. Mattson continues to summarize the 4 to 1 program and discussion is had regarding the fee structure of the sewer entrance fees. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks if the staff from the DEP have the right to tell Walpole that we have to comply with a 4 to 1 ratio and Mr. Mattson answers yes as it is a condition of the Town permit. Further discussion is had regarding the 4 to 1 ratio and the regulations.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Hasenjaeger that the Board support Articles 10, 11 & 12

Vote 4-1-0 (Mishra-No)

Mr. Abbott discusses Article #13 would have requested they borrow \$1,525,500 and that is to address a section of Route 1A from Bullard Street to the Norwood Line and from Country Kitchen South to where the railroad goes underneath Main Street. This could affect 10-15 residents and the assessed betterments would be huge. Mr. Abbott comments the houses are one side of the street and suggests the sewer could go in the sidewalk and the issue of the betterments would be huge if you spread 75% of 1.5 Million Dollars. Mr. Abbott continues if there were 15 properties for the next 20 years would be \$4,665 added to their property tax and the Board has not asked if these properties want the sewer and feels the Board has the option of waiting. Mr. Fasanello asks about the federal money the President is going to release for infrastructure improvements and if Walpole will see if any of that money. Mr. Johnson answers he is waiting for some guidance as the rules and guidelines are very vague right now. Mr. Abbott offers some considerations if the money is received for sewer and water. Further discussion is had by Mr. Johnson and the Board. Mr. Hasenjaeger emphasized the Board would like to look into when they undertake the projects of alternative ways of constructing and expanding the sewer that is much more economical and makes suggestions.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Mishra that the Board recommends asking the Town Administrator to remove Article #13 from the Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Vote 5-0-0

Abatelements (Signed and approved as delivered)

1. Email from resident dated 9/7/21-7 Lexington Drive re: request for sewer abatement

Motion made by Mr. Fasanello **Seconded** by Mr. Abbott to give an abatement on the sewer charges and not the water charges

Vote 5-0-0

Minutes of July 12, 2021

Motion made by Mr. Hasenjaeger **Seconded** by Mr. Abbott to accept the minutes with said changes

Vote 4-0-1(Fasanello abstain)

Superintendents Status Report

Mr. Gustafson updated the Board the public comment period ended last Friday for the Draft Water Management Act and at this time he is unaware of any public comment. The DEP is expected to issue the final permit within 30 days after the closing of the public comment period. Scott provides an update on Roberts Filter Group and the problems with filters # 5 &6 and the plan of action to correct the wrong material they provided. Mr. Gustafson answers Mr. Abbott's question that water quality is not an issue at all with this problem. Mr. Gustafson updates that The Delaney Treatment Plant had its routine PFAS sample taken on August 11, 2021 and came back as 13.1 parts per trillion which is still hovering down the lower end towards 10 which is good. Mr. Gustafson provides an update on the 1A project, the metering appointment schedule and that the water table remains high.

Correspondence #1 *Memo from Planning Board dated 8/25/21 re: 272-274 South Street Site Plan Approval Case No.21-05 Plan Review*

Mr. Fasanello comments this is in Area 1 and discussion is had that this an existing building and they propose to add a new building. Mr. Abbott comments the existing building was built in 1965 and discussion is had regarding the property.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott ***Seconded by*** John Hasenjaeger that the Board make the following comments to the Planning Board:

- This location is about 1,400 feet from the closest wells which is Neponset 1 & Neponset 2 and is located in Area 1 of the Aquifer Protection Overlay District.
- The existing building and new building should prohibit use of storage of chemicals unless storage including load areas is within structure designed to prevent that generation and escape of contaminated runoff of leachate;
- Storage of commercial fertilizers as defined as MGL Chapter 128 Section 64 unless such storage is within a structure design to prevent the generation and escape of contaminated run off or leachate;
- Any roof leaders shall be directed to recharge ground water;
- Show location of the parking lots and disclose what chemicals will be used for snow and ice control;
- List all chemicals that will be stored onsite and indicate how they will be stored;

The Board is concerned with the materials that will be stored in the storage areas to the rear of the property and what action will be taken to prevent them from ending up in the Neponset River.

Vote 5-0-0

Correspondence #2 *Memo from Planning Board dated 8/10/21 re: 38 Peach Street-REVISED subdivision plan (will be available at meeting for review)*

Read and noted by the Board

Correspondence #3 *Memo from William Abbott dated 8/9/21 re: MWRA-Mine Brook Well #4*

Mr. Abbott comments he provided some research information regarding comparing Mine Brook #4 vs. connecting to the MWRA. Mr. Abbott summarizes the town produces water much cheaper than what the MWRA would charge. The MWRA has the advantage of the entrance fee even though it is larger than what it would cost for the town to connect. Mr. Abbott continues it is interest free and the Town would have to borrow money and this is something the Board is not acting on now.

Mr. Fasanello comments toward the end of the meeting that this is an insurance policy for the Town which is approximately \$4 million dollars over 20 year and Mr. Hasenjaeger comments it is approximately \$170,000 a year for 25 years with no interest. Mr. Hasenjaeger continues we would always have the right to access the Quabbin if ever needed to insure we have a water supply. Mr. Hasenjaeger suggests we may need to hire a marketing person to come up with a program to educate the residents about the future and the risks and further discussion is had.

Correspondence #4 *Letter from William Hamilton and Decision on Stipulation re: 55 SS LLC*

Discussion is had and this is Read and Noted by the Board

Discussion Item #1 *Water Treatment Chemicals Bid*

Motion made by Mr. Abbott ***Seconded by*** Mr. Spillane to authorize the Selectman to award the bids as listed

Vote 4-0-1 (Fasanello abstains and comments that the Commissioners should be doing the contracts and discusses the language of the Town Charter)

Discussion Item #2 Sewer Master Plan Update-Memo from Bill Abbott dated 8/4/21

Discussion Item #3 Letter dated 7/29/21 from Weston & Sampson re: Coach Road Area Sewer Extension Evaluation

Mr. Abbott comments that this was brought up at a previous meeting and suggested that the Board take the 2019 Draft Master Plan and make that the Master Plan. Mr. Abbott provided a summary of the 2019 Master Plan. Mr. Abbott continues to summarize what he has provided for the Board and what he feels is a concern on the sewer. Mr. Abbott points out the projects are extremely expensive and as an example looking at Phase 3 by Turners Pond the betterments using the 75% going to the houses and the 25% covered by the sewer rates would be a huge impact on the homeowner's property tax. At some point the Board can make a decision to adopt the 2019 report as the Sewer Master Plan and to make a decision to extend the sewer by order of priority and to survey the residents. Mr. Hasenjaeger comments he would like to deal with the Coach Road report from Mr. Mattson before they make a decision and would like the amendment added to the report of the costs and what Weston and Sampson's findings are.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Hasenjaeger to adopt the 2019 Draft Sewer Master Plan as the official Master Plan once the Board receives the amendment from Weston & Sampson addressing the rural areas of North Walpole (Coach Road) and South Walpole.

Vote 5-0-0

Discussion Item #4 Email dated 7/29/21 from MWRA re: Walpole Developer Flow Reduction Program

Discussion is had regarding the I&I current program, the past litigation case and a plan to go forward at the 4 to 1 ratio. Mr. Fasanello asks about an infrastructure fee and why it is not built into the fee structure. Mr. Abbott responds that part of the entrance fee is the system development charge and the Board should look at the current fee structure. Mr. Fasanello suggests Town Administration check out the current fee structure and present the Board with options to make sure the Board is being fair and further lengthy discussion is had regarding the 4 to 1 ratio and the program.

Discussion Item #5 Email from Community & Economic Development re: Master Plan Steering Committee Sewer & Water Member

Motion made by Mr. Spillane **Seconded** by Mr. Abbott to recommend Mr. Hasenjaeger for the Master Plan Steering Committee Representative

Vote 5-0-0

Discussion Item #7 Sewer and Water Commission Secretary Position

Discussion is had between the Board and Mr. Mattson regarding the Board Secretary Position past and present

Motion made by Mr. Spillane **Seconded** by Mr. Hasenjaeger to keep Ms. Timilty on as working as Board Secretary

Vote 4-1-0 (Fasanello-No)

Discussion Item #6 Meter to Cash Report

Mr. Mishra discusses he has an issue with the last bill generated for one of his accounts is 45 days late. Ms. Timilty asks if the 45 days is from the usage end date to the bill date and Mr. Mishra answers yes. Ms. Timilty updates that the office is currently shrinking the lag. The Munis formula is discussed on the split fiscal year invoice calculation. Mr. Mishra suggests using an average daily rate being billed and discussion is had regarding the billing lag. Mr. Abbott suggests Mr. Mishra speak to the Finance Department regarding his request and if it can be done. Discussion is had regarding a future meeting with the Finance Department.

Motion made by Mr. Mishra ***Seconded*** by Mr. Fasanello to use the average daily rate to produce the bills so they are done on time.

Mr. Abbott speaks in opposition to the Motion stating without knowing whether the department who does the collection, control the Munis system and if they can't what it would take to do it. Further discussion is had and Mr. Spillane suggests the Board speaks to the Finance Department and further lengthy discussion is had regarding the billing process.

Vote 2-3-0 (Abbott, Spillane & Hasenjaeger No)

Motion made by Mr. Abbott ***Seconded*** by Mr. Hasenjaeger to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Vote 5-0-0

Date Minutes Accepted: November 22, 2021