

**Town of Freetown  
Sewer Line Extension Committee**

Minutes of the Wednesday, January 31, 2024 Meeting  
Held Hybrid, at the Police Station Community Room, and over Zoom

**Present in Person:** Deborah Pettey, Victoria Alfaro, Bob Parker, Mark Rosofsky.

**Absent:** James Frates

**Call to Order:** Victoria Alfaro called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**Organization of the Committee**

Mr. Rosofsky stated that a resident, Steven Tripp, is interested in joining the Committee. Ms. Pettey asked about the Planning Board representative. Mrs. Alfaro stated that Mr. Frates was designated and when it was discussed, Mr. Tripp had not expressed interest. The Board of Selectmen could add a resident member to attend meetings or Mrs. Alfaro would discuss further with her Board.

A motion was made by Deborah Pettey, seconded by Mark Rosofsky, to appoint Victoria Alfaro as chair.

**Discussion and Update from Environmental Partners for the Assonet Sewer Extension Project**

Andrew Grota and William Yan, from Environmental Partners (EP) were present. They gave an update on the Assonet Sewer Extension project. Mr. Grota provided an update on the preliminary design work since the last progress meeting in December 2023. He mentioned that a draft Geotechnical Memorandum was provided to the Town for review at the beginning of January. EP provided the Town with an update on the following items: EP's surveyor, Merrill Engineers & Land Surveyors, updated the existing base survey plan to include the abandoned section of South Main Street and addressed most of EP's punch list items. A few remaining punch list items are still being addressed by the surveyor. Mr. Yan indicated the surveyor is coordinating with David Thibodeau, from the Freetown Water Department, to deal with opening drainage and sewer structures in overlapping Town and State jurisdictions. Mr. Yan informed the Town the surveyor is also looking for additional water system information, such as water main and water service record drawings or tie cards, to complete the base survey plan. Mr. Parker requested a list of information needed so the Town could start compiling files. EP reviewed the sewer flow information provided by the Town for additional developments within the collection system and confirmed the flows are insufficient to provide the necessary cleansing velocity needed to justify using the existing 8-inch ductile iron force main. Based on EP's review of the design flows for this sewer shed area, the 8-inch sewer force main is oversized for this application. The Town stated their preference would be to utilize the 8-inch main (versus slip lining), understanding that this would require the Alexandra Drive pump station to be oversized to prevent operational issues in the force main. Ms. Pettey requested EP to provide a list of pros and cons comparing slip lining versus utilizing the existing 8-inch force main. She also requested that EP's analysis include a comparison of pump station sizes, operation costs and construction costs between slip lining and utilizing the existing 8-inch force main. She confirmed that she would provide this information at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on February 20th in order to provide EP with an answer on this force main approach. Once this is confirmed, EP will finalize the BODR / preliminary design and move forward with the final design. She discussed the feasibility of acquiring an existing 12-inch water main on South Main Street under the Route 24 overpass, which is within the MassDOT SHLO. The water main is currently owned by Churchill & Banks and would require the Town to acquire an upstream dam (Tisdale Pond Dam). Although taking ownership could allow the Town to slip line a sewer main without excavating a trench within the SHLO. Ms. Pettey believes it is not worth having the Town take on the risks and liabilities associated with acquiring the dam as well. Mr. Parker, Mr. Rosofsky, and Mrs. Alfaro were in consensus in abandoning the acquisition of the water main and dam, as the water main's condition is unknown, and it is likely well over 100 years old. Ms. Pettey noted the properties along Water Street and The Lane are prone to flooding, especially after major storm events. The Town is considering expanding sewer conveyance into these two streets via upcoming grant funding opportunities.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Rosofsky provided some feedback. Mr. Rosofsky inquired if EP took future Town expansion into design considerations. Mr. Grota assured that EP reviewed existing water usage records, number of parcels, septic records, available parcels, and known future developments before designing an appropriately sized sewer pump station and trunklines for this sewer extension. Mr. Parker and Mr. Rosofsky inquired on how the City of Fall River would charge the Town for sewer treatment. Mr. Grota and Ms. Pettey responded that it would likely

be based on the volume of sewer conveyed to the City. The Town would need to either amend or create a new Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with the Fall River for any additional sewer flow.

#### **Minutes**

The Committee needed more time to review the 12.13.2023 minutes.

#### **Any other business to properly come before the Committee**

The Committee discussed a tentative date for the next meeting. The next meeting would be scheduled on March 6, 2024, at the Police Station Community Room and Zoom.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Deborah Pettey, seconded by Victoria Alfaro, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

This is a True Record by me

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole DeMoranville, Senior Clerk