



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 12/1/20

Meeting held at Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA

9:00AM

Meeting called to order by Bob Parker

Members present: Bob Parker; Brad Paiva; Paul Sadeck

Staff present: David DeManche, Town Administrator; Steven Chandler  
Keven Desmarais

Meeting being recorded by Paul Sadeck and Chandler

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
20 DEC - 8 AM 10:01

Attending meeting are Assonet residents: Ed Mello and Howard Hawkins of S. Main St

### Expanding Sewer Line Connections

- Ed Mello would like to tie into sewer line that runs by his residence.
  - States the line is on his side of the street.
  - Title 5 won't pass inspection of his septic system. He has two beehives and a 1,500 gal tank.
  - Ed will pay the costs run the sewer to his house and connect. He's looking for permission to move forward.
  - Would like to move on this ASAP because he would like to sell his house and move to a gated community.
  - [Ken] Rezendes paid to bring that [sewer] line down, and there is another industrial park [Churchill & Banks] there, and that's going to be built out benefitting Mr. Rezendes.
- Howard Hawkins states:
  - There are 8 residents in their area on South Main Street who may, or could, tie into sewer line at some point.
  - They do not have the need to tie in at this time but says that any rules and regulations should be made easy for all 8 of these residents to comply.
- Keven Desmarais states:
  - It's his understanding that the sewer line is in the middle of South Main Street and water line runs along Ed Mello's side of the street. There would be manhole covers above the sewer line.
  - Sewer line is gravity fed to Fall River.
  - The FW&SC first needs to adopt rules and regulations regarding waste water management and these rules and regulations would be based on Fall River's so that the

- FW&SC is in compliance with the inter-municipal agreement with Fall River. Need to create a fee schedule for permitting.
- Explains that Stop & Shop and Ashland/ISP are the only two sewer customers.
- Chandler reached out to the City of Fall River asking for their [waste water] rules and regulations. John Friar mentioned to him that the waste water meter that Stop & Shop installed years ago needed to be fixed or replaced. The meter has not been operating properly for the past few years and Fall River has been estimating usage. Stop & Shop had replaced the meter twice at the cost of around \$12,000. If Fall River is insistent about this meter being fixed/replaced then a conversation needs to take place as to how this will be done.
- The FW&SC would have to come up with a rate to charge residential customers and charge usage based on water usage.
- Keven clarifies that the FW&SC must adopt rules and regulations before anyone can tie into the sewer line. He and Chandler will get the information needed from Fall River and give to the Commissioners to review and vote to adopt. Will try to have this ready for next meeting.
- Keven is not qualified or licensed to operate sewer and wants to make that clear.
- Paul Sadeck explains that:
  - To open up a roadway the Roadway Commission, which is the Board of Selectmen, need to approve and vote on this action.
  - If there is a 5-year moratorium that exists due to South Main Street being recently paved, a road opening permit would need to be obtained by the applicant.
  - When Stop & Shop came into town they had to get permission to install the utility lines needed. Stop & Shop paid for it and it was their line. When they had the road straightened and repaved, Ken Rezendes laid in the sewer line at no cost to the Town, in hopes that at some point the Town could offer sewer service to water customers along South Main Street.
  - Until now, the Town has not received any additional requests to tie into the sewer line.
  - Paul has no problem with residents tying into the sewer line since it is a gravity fed system [and would not need a pump station].
  - Schedule the next meeting on December 14, 2017 at 6:30PM at the Council On Aging.
- Brad Paiva makes a motion to allow Ed Mello to tap into the sewer line to benefit the Town. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Bob Parker would like any information regarding rules and regulations sent to the Commissioners so that they may review. Chandler will send info from Fall River when he receives it, along with info from other Towns that offer sewer service to residents.

### **South Main Street Water and Filtration Site**

- Bob Parker asks Keven Desmarais about disconnecting.

- Keven Desmarais states that as part of the MassDEP ACO, he will cap the inbound and outbound legs and that would be the physical disconnect. They [MassDEP] are really trying to work with the Town to keep costs as low as possible.
  - Jim McLaughlin of MassDEP explained to Keven that he is not expecting the Town to dig up the road to disconnect the pipes in the road. Just physically disconnect it [at the legs] so that it can't be turned on again on a whim.

### **MassDEP ACO**

- Document is reviewed and accepted by Commissioners.
- Town is not required to upgrade the existing filter site.
- Testing is to be done at Innovation Way monthly.
  - Currently, there is a leak somewhere in the segment that runs under the overpass and would need to be located and repaired before using the line.
  - The State of Mass owns this area of roadway and will need to be contacted regarding need for repair.
    - Town Administrator, David DeManche, needs a report from the FW&SC regarding the Innovation Way leak to present to Freetown Board of Selectmen.
- Commissioners request that the ACO be signed by the Board of Selectmen before they sign and return to MassDEP.
  - Paul Sadeck makes a motion to ask the BOS to come in and sign the finalized MassDEP ACO, once it comes back with notes from Town Counsel, along with the changes on the back page to include the Board of Selectmen before December 15<sup>th</sup>. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - Paul Sadeck makes a motion that the Water Commissioners sign the finalized version of the ACO, which would include BOS signatures. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - David DeManche will mention the request for BOS to sign ACO in his report at Monday night's meeting.
  - Keven Desmarais will contact Jim McLaughlin at MassDEP to have the signature page of the ACO updated to include spaces for the Freetown Board of Selectmen to sign.
    - [On December 4, 2017, Bob Parker directs Chandler to change the final page of ACO to include space for the signatures of the three members of Board of Selectmen].
  - Paul Sadeck makes a motion that although the Water Commissioners may sign the ACO, if it is not signed in a timely manner by the BOS, it does not get sent to MassDEP. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **By-pass Valve**

- Bob Parker asks Keven if the leak has stopped and Keven explains that the leak has been corrected and there is just a small amount of surface water getting in from around the top of the vault.
- Keven suggests putting angle iron around the hatch itself to seal and help eliminate water getting in. He keeps an eye on it and pumps it out if necessary.

### **Churchill & Banks**

- Bob Parker has not spoken to City of Fall River regarding the increase in GPD (gallons per day) required. He will reach out to John Friar.

### **Land at Ashland/ISP**

- Bob Parker has been in contact with Fred Hannah. Fred reviewed a copy of the agreement and approved it and let their attorney know. Fred will check in on status.

### **Budget**

- The FW&SC received an invoice in the amount of \$4,925.25 for emergency repair of a water line at Cove Lane. In the current budget there is not a line item for infrastructure maintenance.
- Chandler has contacted Kim Fales, Town Accountant, and Kim is going to add an account number to be used in order to process the invoice. The funds will have to come from another line item or, a request may be submitted to the Finance Committee for a Reserve Fund transfer.
- Environmental Partners Group has sent a new contract for budgeted engineering services through June 30, 2020.
  - Freetown Board of Selectmen are to sign all contracts.
  - Chandler will make copies for Commissioners so they may review before sending up to Selectmen for signatures.

### **GPS Location Equipment**

- Keven Desmarais begins meter reading next week and will begin getting GPS up and running.
- In order for the GPS to communicate with the tablet, Hot Spot is needed. Keven has Hot Spot on his cell phone and that should work. [Discussion of who will pay for this service still needs to take place.]
- Once Keven learns how to operate the GPS he will train Bob Parker.

### **Chandler Hours**

- Chandler's temporary change in hours to allow him to pick up his Grandson for 5 weeks
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion that Chandler's request to modify his hours, temporarily, due to a family issue be approved because we have coverage for the office from the Selectmen's office and the Personnel Board has no issue with the change. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Approve Minutes**

- Unable to approve minutes from the 11.21.17 meeting because they have not yet been completed in full.

## **Sign Bills**

Brad Paiva makes motion to adjourn. Paul Sadeck 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Steven Chandler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Chandler

Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission