

DPW Commissioner Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 7pm
Police Station, Community Room

Approval Items:

7:00 Minutes Approval: Approval of the January 21, 2015 meeting minutes were postponed to the next meeting.

Open Session:

7:05 T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, spoke about the Chapter 91 license and questioned if the breakwater repairs are going to be on an upcoming agenda. Commissioner Reed said Granite Pier is on the next agenda and we will add the plan that goes with the CATCO Nominee Trust to the Fisherman's Co-Op. T. Arsenian questioned the outer breakwater, Director Parisi said we're in the middle of the permitting process; there is no hurry on that.

Z. Seppala said the DPW writes the specifications for improvements to the breakwater and is involved somewhere in the process. He said he wished to inform the commissioners that M. Rauseo appealed the decision on the complaint he filed in land court. In the appeal you have to explain your differences with the DEP. He said a pre-hearing conference is being held in February. Commissioner Reed said the fishermen are very involved in this and the attorneys they are working with have been notified.

Ongoing Business:

7:10 Green Communities: Commissioner Reed said he hasn't met yet with the Manchester Teacher who is knowledgeable about this program. J. Parisi made a call to Essex; they recommended that the Board of Selectmen is the first place to get approval. The vote at town meeting for stretch codes is critical, without that this can't move forward. The building Inspector said this doesn't place any additional burden on him, but residents will have a greater burden and expense. T. Arsenian said that seniors may not be able to afford the additional expense. Larry Neal said it's just like the flood zones, if you spend more than 50% of the value of the property, then you have to meet the new codes.

7:15 MBTA: Commissioner Gardner said he met with J. Smith, and J. Smith was unaware that the MBTA may need another easement from him. He said J. Smith was against giving any more property for setback or walkways for the locomotive. The town ought to push back to the MBTA until the issue of access to Evan's Field is resolved. The MBTA needs to move that track or come up with another solution. Commissioner Gardner said he read the 2009 report on their performance, in 2009 their budget was predicted to be a deficit of \$1.2B in deficit, the true budget deficit is now in 2015 is \$5.2B in deficit. He said, however, it sounds like they have the funds for Rockport. He questions how they can continue to operate at a deficit like this.

Commissioner Reed recommended scheduling another meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the MBTA and the plowing of private roads.

New Business:

7:20 Water Needs Assessment: Peter Calderazzo from Dewberry presenting; his presentation contained the following.

- **Scope of Work:** includes a 20 year projection of the water supply, distribution system and storage to meet domestic water demands and fire flows through 2034. Consider current, future and potential sources of supply under normal operations and drought conditions. Create new GIS based water model for use in evaluation water distribution system and alternatives to improve the system. Develop recommendations to improve the water supply, distribution and storage systems. Prepare a 20 year phased capital improvement program.
- **Review of tasks completed:** Review of existing water system infrastructure, development of population projections, development of projected water demands, evaluation of water system storage; assessment of water supply vs. demand, preparation of computer model, hydraulic analysis with computer model.
- **Recommended Improvements:**

Water Supply:

1. New pump station and intake for Flat Ledge.
2. Evaluate feasibility of lowering intake at Cape Pond.
3. Evaluate alternatives for Flat Ledge transmission main
4. Incorporate new Bedrock Well supply into Operations Plan
 - Use from May to Sept in conjunction with Mill Brook
 - Operate wells up to 12 hrs/day initially
5. Establish IMA with Gloucester for use of emergency interconnections
6. Incorporate strategy of diverting Carlson's Quarry to Cape Pond to access lower volumes when needed.
7. Evaluate the use of Steel Derrick & Johnson's Quarry as emergency sources of supply.
8. Delay the expansion of Flat Ledge until 2020, request extension of permit.

Main Distribution System:

1. Air release/piping improvements for Great Hill Area
2. Creation of High Pressure Zone for Great Hill Area
3. Eliminate identified bottlenecks and undersized mains
4. Require booster pumps to services above elevation 45 feet (approx. 40)
5. Initiate pipeline replacement program

Chairman Sena inquired what is gained by improving the intake at Cape Pond. P. Calderazzo said about 30M gallons are the possible gain by extending. This would be a capital expense, with dredging and permitting.

It was questioned if in a drought do we go to Carlson's or Cape Pond. Director Parisi said it is not a huge gain for the cost.

Bob Burbank, prior DPW Commissioner, said this assessment is great. He said taking care of the water pressure at Great Hill is a priority. He said on Flat Ledge there were 12-14 years of litigation before permits. He said if the permits run out and we find that we need Flat Ledge, that would be a problem. Commissioner Gardner said he wondered why they didn't have an analysis like this done before going through all of the legal expenses on Flat Ledge. He said we don't know the cost of putting up a dam at Flat Ledge or what additional capacity we would get from that. R. Burbank said years ago the cost projection for a dam was nearly three million; it would

be much more today. Commissioner Gardner said he would be interested in adding those numbers in to what information we have in this report.

P. Calderazzo said historically the water usage increases between 30% and 35% in the summer.

9:00 Open Space and Watershed Land: J. Parisi said there have been discussions about pieces of land in town. It was stated that any opportunity to purchase land in the Johnson's Quarry area would be good for both a water and granite source.

L. Neal, Conservation Commission, said there are six parcels of land near Johnson's Quarry, he said our contact with Essex County Greenbelt has taken another job; he was main connection between the Johnson Quarry group and the town. The new contact person is Vanessa Johnson (no relation). He said Nancy Johnson, a banker, and a realtor from Gloucester toured the property along with Larry Neal. There is a house and a cell tower up there. They were going through the court system so Nancy Johnson could be a signer. The Johnson family and the town haven't been able to agree on the value of the property. An appraisal that is agreed upon by the town and the owners would be needed. He said he was told that the Essex County Greenbelt would not be interested in the quarry. The assessment numbers are about \$700,000, \$1.2M to \$1.4M has been discussed as the right price for the property. L. Neal said there is a good chance the town could get 54% of the cost back from the state for conservation land, though we're not sure about a quarry. Once the town purchases land, it is off the tax rolls. Commissioner Gardner said it sounds as though there is a list identified of key water protection targets. L. Neal said finding someone who wants to give away land is very difficult.

9:40 Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3/4/15 at 7pm in the Community Room at the Police Station

Tickler List:

Cell tower lease funds
Green Communities/Energy efficiency
Sewer use regulations
Transfer Station Redesign
DPW Facility