

DPW Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
7:00 p.m. – Police Station Community Room

7:00 PM Approval Items:

Board of Commissioners Minutes Approval: Commissioner Reed moved to accept the minutes from the 1/22/14 DPW Commission Meeting, seconded by Chairman Gardner, Vote: 2-0. Commissioner Sena abstained as he was not present for the 1/22/14 meeting.

7:05 PM Open Session:

Open for Public Discussion with the Commissioners: Toby Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, questioned the five year capital plan. He stated that there is \$500,000 in for Flat Ledge next year and the following year \$5,000,000. He said this was completely assigned to the Water Enterprise Fund. Chairman Gardner said the Commissioners were required, per the CIPC, to list any and all potential costs/projects. He said the water needs assessment will tell us if we will move forward with Flat Ledge Dam. He stated that some of the figures in the projected budget are just place holders. T. Arsenian said he is concerned that the water rates would be inflated to pay for this. J. Parisi said the financing of this is yet to be determined.

George and Janice Ramsden, 176 Main Street (across from Sheehan Terrace), said they own a duplex and are looking into connecting into the town sewer. J. Parisi said it would be a grinder pump connection. He said the plan by Judd was submitted to. J. Parisi said this is an article at town meeting; the granting of an easement. They are proposing to connect to the sewer via that connection to the gravity sewer line. They would be responsible to maintain that whole line. Their septic system isn't failing, but it's questionable. The Ramsden's said there are typically four people living in the building; they don't allow washing machines in the units currently.

7:10 PM New Business:

Sewer Capacity Assessment Reports Public Presentation: Kate Goyette, P.E. and Cecelia Carrion-Carmona from Kleinfelder were in attendance with a PowerPoint presentation.

- **Background**, 60% of town is currently sewered, (approx. 2600 properties) 133,500 LF of gravity sewer, 2007 Moratorium on new connections because we were violating the 800,000 gallon per day rolling average, moratorium was lifted, 2008 – 2011 I/I mitigation, NPDES 800,000 gallons. I/I Mitigation included over 2,500 house inspections, 47 sump pumps were removed, 14,000 LF of CIPP, disconnected an underground stream that was creating spikes at the treatment plant; the flows were reduced.

Remaining 2012 ACO Requirements: Continued I/I mitigation, violations to the NPDES permit can result in restrictions to new connections, submit progress reports to DEP on January 15 and July 15 of every calendar year (no end date yet).

The question is can new sewer connections be added; what's the capacity.

- **Treatment Plant Capacity Evaluation:** Biological and solids load under average daily flow conditions; biological and solids load under maximum daily flow condition. Avoid over flow under peak hourly conditions. 1.3M gallons per day is the maximum for the plant during maximum daily flow. As of today the plant has no additional capacity during maximum daily flow (wet weather conditions). There is no capacity at this time for the entire town to connect. The establishment of a sewer district is recommended. Within the district, properties should be prioritized. Within the sewer district, the parcels should be categorized: 1) existing sewer, 2) properties with frontage but no sewer, 3) properties with no frontage and no sewer.

Priority Level 1: Property has frontage to sewer collection system; property is currently connected to a septic system, property is not developed. Estimated additional flows = 61,500 gallons/day.

Priority Level 2: Property has no frontage to the sewer collection system; parcel is currently connected to a septic system, property is within the boundaries of the sewer district. Estimated additional flows = 22,000 gallons/day.

Priority Level 3: Property has no frontage to the sewer collection system, property is not developed, property is within the boundaries of the sewer district. Estimated additional flows = 13,000 gallons/day.

Priority Level 4: Property is outside of the sewer district.

- **Recommendations:** for every 100 gallons connected, Rockport removes 400 gallons through I/I methods 2014 I/I plan: 13,000 LF of CIPP in Subarea 6, potential underground stream connection, assess wet weather flow reductions upon project completion. Have the above plan completed next fall and reassess.

Commissioner Sena asked how old the pipes in Subarea 6 are; Kleinfelder representatives said they are old, and probably clay.

Kleinfelder representatives said on the average day there is excess capacity, but when it rains the plant can't handle the flows and that gets added to the rolling average. Maybe 100,000 gallons is a safe number to use for additional capacity, but if we're not addressing the old and leaky pipes and we get heavy rains, maybe it's not a safe number. All of the significant leaks were repaired by DPW in 2007 and 2008.

J. Parisi said the plant puts out 500,000 gallon per day and approximately 70% (357,000 gallons) are from sewer users, above that could be I/I mitigation.

T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said lining pipes was done on public property, he asked about lining pipes on private property. He said in some zoning districts you can add a unit if you have a sufficient amount of square feet; residents can divide dwellings into multiple dwellings by right. There is an amount here that isn't accounted for because we can't predict what people will do by right with their property.

The Kleinfelder representatives said they couldn't estimate how many of the existing dwellings on the sewer system might expand. They said they estimated the maximum number on those undeveloped sites that were on the sewer line.

The Kleinfelder representatives said the lining project was the biggest bang for the buck in Area5A. For \$500,000 there was a very significant return on the investment. Today we're meeting the requirements. If more connections are going to be added, the system is just going to get older and it's not going to get any better. They said DEP wants to continue to see progress; they're not asking for anything crazy.

Commissioner Sena inquired of the Kleinfelder representatives how the measurements were done. Kleinfelder representatives responded the measurements were taken from the plant, 10 meters in 2012 trying to capture and break it down to manageable areas. We did the same in 2007 so we could compare. They stated that's why Subarea 6 was chosen, because of the flows in those meters and what they were seeing at the pump station.

Commissioner Sena questioned if moon tides were taken into account; the Kleinfelder representative responded they were not.

Commissioner Sena questioned how long the liners are good for before upgrades are necessary. The Kleinfelder representative said they should last approximately 50 years.

Chairman Gardner questioned what we do about the laterals. The Kleinfelder representative said water will take the path of least resistance. You can't tell a homeowner they have to do this. They said some communities bear the cost of lining private laterals because they have to get their flow down. They commented that they tried to reserve some capacity; anyone outside the 3 zones gets nothing at all. She said they anticipated having capacity for those with failed systems.

Chairman Gardner stated that it sounds like we don't really know yet how much capacity we have. We don't know that we can remove 400 gallons for every 100 gallons we add.

Director Parisi said let connections happen as they are requested. We will continue with I/I, we charge a fee for I/I; these are special revenues that are reserved for I/I work. The entire town could not be accommodated by the sewer.

Commissioner Sena questioned if the plant was upgraded how many gallons could the town increase to. The Kleinfelder representative said Rockport is limited to the 800,000 gallons per day; the NPDES limit, because of the Ocean Sanctuaries Act.

Review Sewer Capacity Assessment Draft Regulations: J. Parisi distributed the draft of regulations. The regulations define the sewer service area. The reserve capacity of some number of gallons; that number will be changing. As long as we continue the I/I work, the capacity will change. This spring additional I/I work will be initiated; lining more pipes, etc. There is still a priority level here for approving any additional connections. Kopelman and Paige will review the regulations.

T. Arsenian said if a connection is approved at the end of a way, logically every property on the way to the approved property can connect.

Chairman Gardner said all of that was taken into account when the capacity was calculated.

Front Beach Improvements & Beautification: Chairman Gardner said the benches, the plantings, the trash receptacles, the sand damage, the railings, and the asphalt at Front Beach don't look very good. He said there are existing funds for some bench replacements in town. Chairman Gardner said it needs to be redesigned and perhaps the Beautification Committee could be involved. Perhaps CPC funds could be used; the deadline for that is fast approaching. It was questioned if funds be used for construction costs and design costs. The Beautification Committee could start working with the various stakeholders while the application for funding is submitted. Chairman Gardner said in the short term we can remove the extra wooden fence, the bench and in the mean time we can talk to the Beautification Committee and let them know that a request will be going to the CPC on this. Ward Talbot, Old County Road, questioned if the Tufts Engineering School is actively accepting applications for projects. Director Parisi said that might be worth investigating.

Long Beach Infrastructure: Chairman Gardner said has spoken to the Town Administrator about this. The new leases have language he doesn't understand; language that wasn't in the prior lease. He said it seems to state that the town is responsible for maintaining the land that the tenants are leasing and the infrastructure and that the town can be found negligent if it isn't maintained. He said the Town Administrator asked Kopelman & Paige to render an opinion. Ward Talbot, Old County Road, said two versions of the lease have been sent to the cottage owners. He said the cottage owners are expected to sign the lease by tomorrow.

T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said the prior lease stated that the town was to be held harmless in the event of any damages to the cottages due to the failure of the seawall.

Commissioner Reed said he attended a session presented by the middle school kids, and some sophomores, on the protection of Rockport. They reviewed the low lying issues, Old County Road was reviewed and how low that was. He said it was an interesting presentation; the “vulnerability” of Rockport in a severe storm. They said this group would be more than willing to donate their time to any project on protecting Rockport.

Pending Items from Selectmen:

- 1) It was questioned if there is still a Building Study Committee. The recently selected consultant will be starting in March. There will be some involvement with DPW staff and the consultant hired to complete the building study, bringing them to buildings, show them infrastructure plans, etc.
- 2) Commissioner Reed stated that the Board of Selectmen would like to see the position for the Community Building Manager posted as soon as possible.
- 3) The issue of a contingency plan in the event of a breach of the Long Beach seawall was discussed. Commissioner Reed suggested that the DPW take the lead and put together a list of what the appropriate/necessary steps would be in the event of an emergency and present it to the Board of Selectmen. Commissioner Sena questioned if DCR should be involved here.

Schedule Public Hearing for setting 2014/2015 Sticker Fees: Wed., 2/26/14 at 7pm.

8:35 PM Ongoing Business:

Status of Pending FEMA Storm Damage Repair Projects: Penzance Road was discussed as an emergency route from South Street, and the need to improve it for public safety. T. Olson said there are existing FEMA funds for Penzance; he is putting together a maintenance plan to present to the Conservation Commission. He said the plan is to bring the road up to existing elevation, repave it and restructure the dune on the ocean side.

8:45 PM Ongoing Capital Projects

Update/Review of Project Management Software Spreadsheet: Some of the projects have been closed out; some have been repurposed for articles at Town Meeting. J. Parisi said regarding Bedrock Wells, he has a quote from National Grid for \$220,000 for all the poles and three phase wiring, that’s an Article at Town Meeting for us to do that work. J. Parisi said he is discussing the potential for solar power at the site as the primary power source. But this is not definite at this time; he should know over the next several weeks.

8:55 PM Other Issues of Discussion: J. Parisi said we have a set of plans from the Army Corp of Engineers on the Bearskin Neck breakwater. This looks promising to move forward. He said this could be a push to get work going on our seawalls.

Tickler List:

February, 2014	Sewer use regulations
March, 2014	Community House Facilities Mgr.
March, 2014	City Hall Systems
March, 2014	Energy Efficiency workshop

Next Meeting: Wed., 2/26/14

9:45 PM Commissioner Sena moved to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.