

DPW Commission Meeting
Wed., April 30, 2014, 7pm
Police Station Community Room

A meeting of the Rockport DPW Commissioners was held at 7pm on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 in the Community Room at the Police Station; three commissioners, the DPW Director and the Asst. DPW Director were in attendance, Commissioner Sena arrived at 7:15pm.

Approval Items:

Board of Commissioners Minutes Approval: Commissioner Reed moved to approve the minutes of the 4/16/14 meeting, seconded by Chairman Gardner, Vote: 2-0.

Approval of Cemetery Lots

Open Session:

Open for Public Session with the Commissioners: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said the Harbor Advisory Committee has hatched a scheme to extend Granite Pier to Gull Island. They said an Army Corp. of Engineers estimate back in the 1960's was \$400,000. They're looking to the CPC for \$6,000 to fund a feasibility study. Phil Crotty and Skip Montello presented at a Board of Selectmen meeting, they're going to the Community Preservation Fund next week (Tuesday, 5/6); T. Arsenian said this is outrageous.

Frederick Tarr, 154 Main Street, spoke on the metals pile and the overwhelming vote at Town Meeting. Chairman Gardner said there wasn't an opportunity for those in attendance to hear both sides. He said if the metal pile should be brought up again at Town Meeting, the commissioners will act accordingly. He said he believed the Commissioners would be willing to act on the vote now if the Commissioners had a chance to speak at Town Meeting.

Zenas Seppela: 92 Granite St., has nothing to say but said he comes to all these meetings to show how calm he can be.

New Business:

Long Beach Sediment Transport Study Parameters: Commissioner Gardner said he was hoping that Applied Coastal would have given more of a narrative on what is happening on the beach with some options. It was recommended that Applied Coastal be contacted so they can demonstrate how the beach is changing and looking at the various options. Chairman Gardner has a set of questions that he put together for Applied Coastal. It was recommended that if anyone else had questions for Applied Coastal, they should get their questions to Director Parisi.

Commissioner Sena questioned how many informative sessions will be provided by Applied Coastal. J. Parisi said he wasn't sure if the specific number was detailed in the scope of work. That meeting was the first of a series. Commissioner Sena said the 1931 wall is important to this study. Applied Coastal had said if we go forward with the beach nourishment we have longer on the 1931 wall. They said it will be five years before sand arrives on the beach once the decision is made to move forward with the replenishment.

Chairman Gardner said Vine Associates was asked to assess the wall and design a new wall. They didn't speculate on how much time is left on the 1931 wall. In 2011 Vine Associates assessed the status of the wall; Commissioner Sena said the wall has moved from 2011 to now.

Commissioner Reed said he likes what he heard at the meeting about beach nourishment. He asked if the 1931 wall is at the end of its lifecycle, and questioned if it could be patched. He said it could last another 5 or 10 years, we just don't know.

Chairman Gardner said the Town Administrator requested, through Selectperson Wilkinson, the cost to do several things to the wall. He said it seems premature to move forward on the wall if there are other things that could accomplish the same thing. He said the Town Administrator was talking about deeper footings and patching the wall. Just looking at the 1931 wall, to keep it from failing, the beach replenishment is another issue all together. Does it make sense to fix the wall first then put the sand in front of it, or put the sand in front first then selectively push the sand back and try to fix the wall.

Commissioner Sena said if there's nothing in front of it, we'd have to build a dike to protect the work area from winter storms. There would be a significant savings from a wall contractor if we had the sand. He said the bottom of the 1931 wall is at least 3' higher (bottom of footing) than the 1958 wall; the Gloucester end is more shallow than the Rockport end.

Director Parisi said there are several options; if we don't nourish the beach, maybe we leave the 1931 wall in place. We need to develop a reasonable program that will work and provide a level of safety for the homeowners and maybe not cost \$14M. He recommends waiting for the final study to be completed.

Chairman Gardner said Applied Coastal is going to tell us about the beach, but they're not structural engineers so they're not advising us on the wall. He questioned if we need to get someone in before FTM to answer the questions on the wall.

Ward Talbot, Old County Road, provided a diagram to the Commissioners from the Tufts students. He went back to Tufts again and they put together a diagram. He said if you're willing to go down to the beach, there are benchmarks that you can use here.

Chairman Gardner questioned what is the rate of change and why is it changing.

Commissioner Reed asked if we do nothing; how long will it be before we have no beach.

Chairman Gardner said we should each get our questions to J. Parisi; if Long Beach residents have questions for Applied Coastal, they should get their questions to Director Parisi.

Transfer Station Regulations Review: J. Parisi distributed the current regulations. The Commissioners were asked to review the regulations and get any edits to Director Parisi. Some areas to review for revision are: Sunday hours, demolition debris, and metals disposal. T. Arsenian,

95 Granite Street, asked what about hazardous waste. Director Parisi said that is not dealt with in the regulations. These regulations are on-line and should be posted at the Transfer Station as well.

Workshop Scheduling

- Interview workshop
- Transfer station
- Paving of private roads: The Board of Selectmen wants to have a workshop with the DPW so a decision can be made by July and those affected residents can be notified. Commissioner Reed recommended that we have an opinion, in writing, from town counsel on this. T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said we should be cautious about any exceptions to the rule.
- Energy efficiency: A workshop will be scheduled for 6/18/14; we should have National Grid come in and decide who else to invite. Perhaps a survey of town facilities should be conducted; some of this has already been done. Weston Sampson suggested having Doug Wagner come in. Swapping out pumps, etc.; we already have one (low lift pump station) of those programs going. The DOER \$100,000 grant, is a first come-first serve, Rockport's proposal requested \$88,000. Rockport was the second community to submit a proposal; lighting costs would be reduced. Street lighting needs to be looked at, changing out the flood lights. Director Parisi said if the town took over the street lights, we would need a different skill set, so that would need to be looked at. T. Arsenian recommended inviting the Planning Board to the Energy Efficiency Workshop.

Ongoing Business:

Review of Goals and Objectives:

- Workforce assessment – should be on the next agenda. Changing the structure is being looked at; perhaps combining the water, sewer, and highway division so all of that workforce is combined.
- Sewer regulations – the sewer capacity study is done. J. Parisi said we can get the sewer connection priority regulations done; we will need approval from Kopelman & Paige; then start on the revisions to the regulations.
- Construction standards – this was due in February of 2014; this is not on target. T. Olson has compiled many of them. If this is a priority, T. Olson would have to postpone some other projects to get this done.
- Pavement management – this is underway; the consultant is performing road assessments this month and will rate/prioritize the roads. A draft report should be ready by June. The Governor allocated funds to cities and towns that were part of savings from funds that were not spent last year. Rockport has an additional \$28,000 that needs to be spent by September 30 and be encumbered by June 30, 2014.
- Cemetery Fees – this is complete
- Bedrock Well Power – J. Parisi said two bids were received and the prices were crazy. They were mostly water work companies, not road work/construction companies. D. Greel had recommended getting the drillers in there to do the gravel roadway. We'd like to start the roadwork then go out to bid on the building components.
- DPW facility

We should count on getting the sewer connection priority regulations, the paving management plan, the workforce assessment, and some of Bedrock Well done. The bulk of the sewer use regulations, the construction standards and some of the Bedrock Wells will not be completed this year.

Ongoing Capital Projects:

DPW Facilities Assessment – J. Parisi said the consultant proposed several options, we had a cost estimate and requested capital; it was denied. T. Olson said that M. Vieira said we have a draft contract for the building study and the Board of Selectmen should sign it in mid-May. T. Olson said DPW staff will be involved in the building study. Either a less expensive plan needs to be developed or how important a new building is to the town needs to be explained to the Capital Planning Committee and ultimately the voters.

I&I Project: Currently cleaning sewer lines and placing cameras in sewer lines is taking place. This will be used to put together the lining project to line and replace pipes that are in bad shape. This will hopefully reduce I&I that is getting into the system.

Water Needs Assessment: Director Parisi said consultants are developing a report that gets into detail all aspects of water supply, (plants, distribution systems, and water tanks). We're looking at water storage reservoirs that we have and getting more information. There is some untapped volume that is at the lower levels of the reservoirs, we may have more water to tap if we can get to it. This drives the decision on Flat Ledge, (2018 permits). Toby Arsenian, 95 Granite Street questioned how many people are going to be using the water; and where the water population projections come from. J. Parisi said it came from a couple of different sources; UMass was one of the sources. Director Parisi said there are modest increases projected in the population.

Pigeon Hill Water Tank: We have draft form specifications, and we reviewed some corrections for the consultants to make. We're still on track with this; it will go out next month and will be a fall project.

Army Corp. of Engineers on the Breakwater: T. Olson reviewed their specifications and plans, and submitted comments back to them. They would like to visit on Thursday, 5/22 for a public presentation in the Brenner Room at the Library. The plan is to start in October of 2014 and finish at the end of March of 2015.

Other Issues of Discussion: Chapter 90 funds from last year (\$28,000) have to be spent by 9/30/14. Grind problem areas on Granite and Railroad; anything over \$10,000 would have to be put out to bid.

Chairman Gardner said the Board of Selectmen has some questions for the DPW:

- On-line sticker sales: Residents have purchased stickers but haven't received them. J. Parisi said this it was explained in the documentation that fulfillment doesn't happen immediately.
- Tennis courts and parking spots at Long Beach: Some funding exists to improve the tennis courts at Long Beach. T. Olson said a few additional parking spots by the tennis courts were identified and the work was completed.
- Front Beach Project: J. Parisi met with Stephanie Wolfe; the Beautification Committee is in favor of participating in the project. What work that can be accomplished this year will be taken care of.
- Memorial benches: A more balanced approach is being reviewed regarding memorial benches as well as plaques on benches.

Tickler List:

Energy Efficiency

Community House Facilities Manager

Sewer Use Regulations

Transfer Station Redesign

DPW facility

Status of Objectives

Commissioner Reed said the Army Corp. of Engineers was conducting a survey of Pigeon Cove Harbor this week.

Next Meeting: Wed., May 28, 2014 in the Community Room at the Police Station at 7pm.

9:15 pm: Commissioner Sena moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.