

Grinder Pump Study Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Committee Members In attendance:

Tom Gilroy, Chairman
Curtis Barton
Peggy Dunn
Ed Safran
Joyce Cote, Recording Clerk

Dan Burke, Vice Chairman
Bob Chevalier
David Foley

Not present:

Steve Jahnle, Assistant DPW Director
Glenn Kohl

Non-Committee Members In Attendance at GPSC request:

Mike Vosnakis, Sewer Operations Superintendent
Tom Frost, Weston & Sampson

Meeting was Chaired and called to order by Tom Gilroy at 7:00 p.m. -- Reminded all that the meeting is taped and broadcast live and rebroadcast at a later date.

Tom Gilroy reintroduced each Committee member. Tom offered to relinquish his role as Chairman. All agreed that he should remain as Chairman. Tom then presented the Agenda as posted.

Committee's primary focus should be on developing a Mission Statement.

Tom Gilroy: Now that Town Meeting has voted against the request for \$150,000 additional funds to assist with Grinder Pump maintenance through the end of the fiscal year, where do we stand? How many of the required FR Mahoney inspections have been completed? What is the invoicing process for Weston & Sampson (W&S)?

Mike Vosnakis, Sewer Operations Superintendent: There were approximately 31 pumps remaining to be inspected – 12 of those are done. The Town is still obligated to repair GPs when called on an emergency basis.

Unsure if FR Mahoney inspections were done. He will check into it. W&S is billing on a monthly basis. Detailed inspection/repair reports are available on line.

Tom Gilroy: When developing Mission Statement keep the following in mind: By-law is vague. This will continue to be an ongoing project. May be different types of pumps installed that are difficult to maintain.

Bob Chevalier: Added that we should look at the recommendations made at the conclusion of prior meetings; review and address budget issues.

Tom Gilroy: Were any unnecessary expenses incurred related to the alarm issues?

Mike Vosnakis: There are 74 remote units that can be monitored inside the house. Mike described the alarms and issues regarding how loud the alarm can be. RFP included locating inside alarms.

Curtis Barton: Reiterated the need to define the “town standard.” Pages 4-2 and 4-3 partially addresses this.

Tom Gilroy: Should possibly include this language in the By-law. Should also include a lengthier list of things that should not be flushed. Dave Foley has a list.

Mike Vosnakis: Suggested including this in the Sewer User Regulations as opposed to By-law since the list may only pertain to E-1 pumps. Town Counsel may have an opinion on this.

Tom Gilroy: Addressed question to Tom Frost regarding process.

Mike Vosnakis: Inspections take place. If there is a simple fix required, it will be handled at that time at no additional cost to the Town. Anything out of the ordinary is run by Mike for approval. Reports are available on line with W&S.

Dave Foley: Questioned if there is anything that can indemnify the Town from liability. Town Counsel had previously suggested that Insurance would indemnify the Town. Can we do more -- perhaps a document for the homeowner to sign.

Action: Tom Gilroy to invite Town Counsel to next meeting. Also invite Paul Cohen to meeting to discuss the difference between Municipal and non-Municipal contracts.

Curtis Barton: Proposed the following Mission Statement for review:

- Evaluate current GP operations
- Review current “By-law” & Regulations
- Define “Town Standard” and owner’s responsibility
- Define “cost effective repairs”
- Develop recommendations for Town Meeting/BOS
- Determine liability/indemnification

Discussion followed regarding the contract terms and the discrepancy between what the Town agreed to in the contract and what has been spent to date.

Dan Burke: Questioned how the Town can justify spending more than the amount budgeted and voted at TM.

Mike Vosnakis: The Town is bound by DEP regulations – if there is an emergency repair required, the Town is obligated to fix it.

Dan Burke: Understood that the inspections would be completed within a three-year period and not a three-month period.

Tom Gilroy: Cost would not have been so high if it was conducted over a three-year period.

Dave Foley: Questioned whether or not a credentialed electrician was on-site for each inspection.

Tom Frost: Only when required.

Dave Foley: Expressed concern about the thoroughness of the inspections. Believes some items may have been missed.

Mike Vosnakis and Tom Frost: They disagree. Would have to see specific report to comment.

Tom Frost: Described the life of a grinder pump. Typically a pump will last 10-12 years and then be suitable for a rebuild. If optimal conditions, may get an additional 5 years; therefore 17 years is the average. Continued on describing the inspection/repair process.

Dave Foley: Did FR Mahoney repair the GPs that they were obligated to repair?

Mike Vosnakis: Unsure

Peggy Dunn: Describe the level of cooperation with W&S.

Mike Vosnakis: Full cooperation and they are cost conscious. Mike cited a few examples of cost-effective measures used by W&S.

Dan Burke: Does W&S run the pump during the inspection?

Mike Vosnakis: Yes

Bob Chevalier: What is the Sewer Division's involvement in the installations?

Mike Vosnakis: A permit is issued to a licensed drain layer. Sewer inspector is assigned to inspect after the installation.

Bob Chevalier: Contract replaces "Grinder Pumps" with "pre-fabricated" pumps. He questioned whether or not the Town would be eliminating the maintenance of the "custom pumps" that are in place. There needs to be clarification. Not clear if Town should be covering these pumps.

Mike Vosnakis: Are currently handling them on a case-by-case basis.

Tom Gilroy: Suggested we adopt a Mission Statement at next meeting. Also, Mike Vosnakis will give his TM presentation. As noted, Tom will invite Paul Cohen and Town Counsel to next meeting.

Dave Foley motion to adjourn. Peggy Dunn seconded motion. Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.