

Grinder Pump Study Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Committee Members In attendance:

Tom Gilroy, Chairman Dan Burke, Vice Chairman
Curtis Barton David Foley
Joyce Cote, Recording Clerk

Not present:

Steve Jahnle, Assistant DPW Director Glenn Kohl
Peggy Dunn Ed Safran
Bob Chevalier

Non-Committee Members in Attendance at GPSC request:

Mike Vosnakis, Sewer Operations Superintendent

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.

Mike Vosnakis made the presentation that he made at Spring Town Meeting (copy attached, available from DPW or on-line once minutes are published) based on information provided by Weston & Sampson.

Question & Answer Session Followed:

Dave Foley: What are the travel charges? \$150/hour FR Mahony; \$55/hour Weston & Sampson.

Dan Burke: Were any FR Mahony pumps under warranty? No

Curtis Barton: At last meeting, there was a discussion about defining “town standard” so there is no question moving forward.

Lisa Modica -- 1 Peders Place: For new construction, were builders given any guidance on standard? No

John Byron, 117 Proctor Road: Cited the Town Charter 202-15, Section C -- Sewer Commission (SC) was in place from 1980-2012. If building on a piece of property, builder was supposed to go through the Building Department and Board of Appeals. There were certain regulations to follow; would have to meet all requirements and specifications of the SC and conform to the existing system. The Town told builders they could put in “X or Y” system and that was approved by the SC.

Tom Gilroy: Would Weston & Sampson recommend replacing Barnes pumps and Meyers pumps with E-One pumps or others that may be suitable? When extensive repairs are necessary or up for replacement.

Karen Willis -- 5 Peders Place: She has a Meyers pump which has lasted 17 (??) years. Has replaced it once with another Meyers pump.

Steven Giles – 8 Columbus Avenue: Were all pumps replaced? How many were replaced? He is on his fourth pump. Has had a lot of difficulty with his pumps.

Mike Vosnakis: This situation is unique. Switch failed with no warning. Mike agreed to review the report and determine what is causing frequent failures.

Dave Foley: How many pump replacements would you estimate are included in the presentation over the four year period? Roughly 30/year

Tom Gilroy: There seems to have been a misunderstanding amongst the TM representatives on where the \$150,000 was coming from to pay for the proposed expenses through the end of the Fiscal Year. It was not clear that the funds would come from the Sewer Enterprise reserve fund.

Dan Burke: Vote was close – 74 NO to 67 YES.

Curtis Barton: If we move to a town-monitored Guardian System who would monitor? Sewer Operations staff.

Tom Gilroy: Reminder that we can only recommend to Selectman; can't change the By-law. "Grey areas" need to be addressed. Noted: misuse was the only condition mentioned as one not to be covered. Misuse not clearly defined.

Discussion took place regarding the "Considerations" listed at the end of the presentation.

Curtis Barton: Questioned what \$1,000,000 of additional funds would cost each homeowner. No clear answer.

Ed Suleski – 8 Buttercup: Has an indoor pump. Questioned how five indoor pumps were allowed to be installed without the Health Department's input? Also, why are custom pumps listed as a "consideration" in the presentation?

Mike Vosnakis: Believes that these pumps were installed inside for aesthetic reasons. Mass Plumbing code allows indoor installation. When they are installed inside, the Sewer Division is not involved. Custom pumps were listed as a consideration for informational purposes only – letting residents/TM reps know that there are different situations in Town that may require different types of service. If there is an issue with a custom pump, there is more cost associated with the solution. Also, if there is a back-up the Town is liable and this could be quite costly in this scenario.

Richard Gorham – 15 Fenwick Drive: His line froze. Can the pumps be insulated?

Dave Foley: According to E-One, their pumps can be insulated for \$69 (insulates gooseneck). FR Mahony also offered a similar insulation solution – Styrofoam peanuts put in a bag and put over gooseneck.

Mike Vosnakis: There have been six freezes. If pump runs when line is frozen, will most likely have to replace the pump at a high cost.

Lisa Modica – 1 Peders Place: Did not choose to have a custom pump – was in the house when she bought it. Is concerned that we will stop maintaining these pumps.

Karen Willis – 5 Peders Place: Described the issues she has had over the years with her Meyers grinder pump (i.e., every two years the pump fails, issue with the float, low cost repairs have occurred). Replaced the original pump with another Meyers pump.

Bob MacEnany – 7 Grace Street: Gooseneck froze on his E-One pump. Dropped a light down and waited. Shut down pump immediately and once unfrozen worked fine. Has had pump for 17 years with no other problems. Only issue he has had with his W&S inspection was that they did not put the bolts back after inspecting and putting the pump back into the ground.

Mike Vosnakis: That was an initial problem with the inspections. Mike has since spoken to W&S and they are required to re-bolt.

Steve Giles – 8 Columbus Avenue: After last replacement, 4 days later pump failed – switch failure. Is there a possibility to replace with a different pump other than E-One?

Mike Vosnakis: Circuit breaker may have tripped. Would have to review report to determine why recurring failures. Possibly have a choice of replacing with other pump in the future.

Bill Yoder – 4 Jerridge Lane: See attached proposal regarding the control panel.

Mike Vosnakis: Would consider replacing whole panel as opposed to the battery.

Tom Gilroy: No review of minutes – not enough Committee Members present.

Curtis Barton motion to adjourn. Dave Foley seconded motion. Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

