

MINUTES
January 24, 2007

The regular meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners was held tonight. Members in attendance were Elaine Fiore, Peter Cobb and Sean Walsh. Ms. Fiore called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Board met with Richard Serkey and the Boutins, of 17 Hillcrest Road, to discuss their sewer betterment assessment. Mr. Serkey stated that they did not understand the basis on which the Boutins were assessed a betterment. They own lots 17 and 18 on the Fair Acres subdivision plan. The north section of Hillcrest Road is public but the south section of Hillcrest Road is still private. How can the Boutins or anyone else on the private portion of Hillcrest Road be assessed a betterment?

The Board explained that they were following the precedent from Phase 1. The sewer line is brought to the end of the public way. The property owner brings the line to the house.

Mr. Cobb suggested that DEP should be consulted with about this. How could this property be excluded from the sewer project when they are virtually in a flood plain?

Ms. Fiore added that it is not a choice for someone being assessed a betterment to connect or not. It is mandatory. Are the Boutins saying that their property does not abut the public way at any point?

Mr. Serkey stated that was correct. He recommended that the Board consult with Town Counsel about this.

Mr. Cobb asked if the Boutins preferred not to connect or if it were a cost issue. Mr. Boutin stated that if the line were brought to their property line that they would connect to it. It was estimated that the property was about 200 feet from the public portion of Hillcrest Road. The Board gave examples of connections that were much farther back from the road than 200 feet but that have been mandated to connect. Ms. Fiore stated that the Board would check with Town Counsel.

Mr. Serkey questioned why they were billed for the betterment assessment before the legal order was recorded at the registry of deeds. Ms. Fiore stated that Town Counsel instructed the Board to allow customers 30 days to pay the betterment assessment in full. At the end of the 30 days, all properties with unpaid betterments would have a lien placed on them by recording an order at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Serkey asked who the Board would be contacting at Kopelman and Paige. Ms. Fiore said she would contact Mr. Serkey with contact information for Shirin Everett.

The Board met with Linda Toohey regarding Brian's Barber Shop. Ms. Fiore reported that she had stopped by and that there are 4 barber chairs and 1 shampoo sink in the shop. DEP has been contacted and they stated that there is no distinction between barber shops and beauty salons. Ms. Toohey stated that she had signed a 3-year lease. She has contacted State Representative, Tom Calter, who suggested that she request a hearing for a reclassification of her barber shop.

Mr. Cobb replied that DEP had already been contacted about this and that a reclassification is not in order. The entire mall was assessed as a retail space. There are 660 gallons allocated for the entire building. By Title 5, just the 4 barber chairs would be assessed as

400 gallons per day. The 400 gallons would cause the building to exceed the allocated total of 660 gallons per day.

Ms. Toohey asked how she would go about getting her shop reclassified. Ms. Fiore said the Board would ask DEP for a written ruling on this matter and send her a copy of the reply from DEP. She should continue to operate until she receives further information. Ms. Walters in the Board of Health office will still need to make a determination on the septic system inspection.

Don Freeman, of CDM, met with the Board to review expansion plans for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He confirmed that Bob Schreiber would be attending the meeting with DEP on February 12, 2007 at 9:00 am. He has done extensive work in the towns working on the Plymouth County Aquifer study and is familiar with what the current study is concerned with. He will be able to answer any questions DEP may have regarding groundwater depths and discharge requirements. The Plymouth County Aquifer study will not affect the sewer expansion as it will not effect any discharge requirements for years. Mr. Schreiber's main concern is the depth of groundwater. There needs to be a good amount of material between the discharge point and the groundwater.

Ms. Fiore stated that the water department needs to put a new well online near the Thorndike project area but they have been told that if they put the well online there will be too much water drawn from Smelt Brook. Mr. Freeman said that CDM would want to know what type of soil is in this area. Mr. Vandal mentioned that a discharge area near Smelt Brook might mean the plant would have to run the UV system year round and maintain stringent bacterial limits. Mr. Freeman agreed.

Ms. Fiore stated that Mass. Highway has told Thorndike that they prefer the larger loop for the highway ramp over the smaller loop. The Board would need to know what the cost benefit would be to the Sewer Commission if the larger loop were constructed instead of the smaller loop. Mr. Freeman stated that the larger loop would benefit installing a 4th SBR in the current parking lot area. Access to the SBRs would be easier. Either loop could be made to work but the larger loop would be better. The short loop option would make accessing the SBRs more difficult and costly and would require using a larger crane to maintain certain equipment. Construction could be more costly. The construction of the ramp would have to go right to the property line and there would be no room to shift the road at all.

Ms. Fiore asked what the Board would need to do to build another SBR without the Thorndike project being approved. Mr. Freeman said that pumps, piping, blowers, another GBT, etc. would be needed for another SBR. The Board should plan to design an expansion for the maximum potential use. Mr. Vandal mentioned that the second SBR currently needs to be taken down to maintain the diffusers as was done to the other SBR not long ago. With the continued increase in flow they cannot take down the SBR without violating the permit. If it should rain during the process it will take even longer to complete the maintenance work.

Ms. Fiore stated that without the Thorndike project, the Town needs would easily fill one SBR. Mr. Freeman stated that even with the higher flow coming into the plant that a third SBR would make it much easier to take down an SBR for maintenance. It really is not cost effective to build spare SBRs. Two more should probably be enough but the Board should have a plan ready for a fifth SBR. CDM would size everything bigger, but the Board would not need to equip for maximum use until it is needed.

Ms. Fiore asked if another head works building would be needed. Mr. Freeman said another head works would be needed if a third forced main and pump station were coming into the head works building from Thorndike. If the Thorndike project is not built and connected then the Board would probably not want another head works just to accommodate another SBR. Ms. Fiore confirmed that the collections system would remain the same without Thorndike.

Mr. Vandal stated that if another 100,000 gallons is coming into the plant that he would need another GBT. Mr. Freeman agreed and stated a sludge tank would be provided as well.

Ms. Fiore confirmed that whatever needs to be designed for the future should be done. The building should be built but not necessarily filled until the equipment is needed.

Mr. Freeman questioned the need to move forward with a design plan and a cost estimate before the April Town Meeting. Ms. Fiore explained that the Thorndike project needs a cost estimate for design and construction should the project receive approval. They will pay for half of the plant expansion, one SBR and the leaching field. If they were assessed betterments, they would pay about \$6,000,000.00. The Board needs to be sure that Mr. Geisinger agrees to pay the equivalent of \$6,000,000.00 in construction costs. If the construction cost is less, then the Board would want the difference to be paid through betterments.

Mr. Freeman said that a cost estimate could be broken down by items, such as a head works building, SBR, GBT and so forth. CDM can provide a total cost estimate and calculate what 50% of the total would be. They should not need to do much more work to provide a cost estimate. It should not take more than 10 hours of time to work up the cost estimate. Ms. Fiore asked that a cost estimate be given for both highway ramp options so that this information can be provided in discussion at future meetings. Mr. Freeman agreed to prepare a cost estimate for a maximum upgrade and to include prices for new biofilters and a new head works building. There is still money in the original \$30,000.00 approved for designing an expansion that should cover the cost of this work.

Ms. Fiore asked what information should be provided to the Mews project. They have requested the design criteria and calculation methods used for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the sewer project. Mr. Freeman to check the front of the contract documents for the Design Criteria for Treatment Plant G Sheet. This should provide the maximum WWTP capacity information.

The Board asked about overflow remediation. Mr. Freeman stated that the usual procedure is to notify DEP of the spill within 24 hours. A written report should be provided to DEP within 5 days and should explain what was done to contain and clean up the spill. Mr. Freeman was told that residents in the area of a spill were concerned that a minor spill had not been disinfected. He replied that most spills are not dangerous if you should get the waste on your skin. You should wash your hand thoroughly and shower well. Your clothes should be washed well. If the department feels they can contain a spill with a pump truck and sand bags then that is what should be done and reported to DEP. DEP has information on their web site in section 310 CMR 12.

The Board reviewed an application for a grinder pump from the contractor expecting to connect 17 Bay Side Lane to the sewer. The property had been approved for a deferral in Phase 1 and is now ready to connect. The contractor has measured and determined that a pump is needed. Mr. Vandal felt that the pump could be paid for out of the department budget and should not be paid from Phase 2 funds. Pump usually last for 20 years or more. The cutters wear out and need replacing before the pumps need replacing. The application for the pump needs to be updated and will be signed when the corrected information has been received.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Sean Walsh, to approve a grinder pump for 17 Bay Side Lane. The motion was unanimously voted.

The Board reviewed comments from Robert Masse regarding manhole details received from Sullivan Brothers Toyota. Mr. Masse recommended the Board request confirmation from the manufacturer that the integrity of the manhole can be maintained and the 3 sewer lines connected parallel to the service line while maintaining a watertight seal. The Board to send a letter to the engineer and a copy to Sullivan Brothers.

Solstice connection fees were reviewed. They were assessed by the Sewer Commission and the assessors' office was notified to apply the fees to the property tax bill. The fees were not added in time to be billed this year. They can be billed as an omitted bill or they can be added to the 2008 bills. The repayment term would be reduced but the total amount would be billed. The Board agreed to let the fees be billed in 2008.

Percy's restaurant was discussed. They were billed an estimated betterment based on 60 seats. The ZBA has approved a plan to rebuild the restaurant with 90 seats. The Board asked that the added betterment be committed to the tax bill now.

The Bog, Brad McKenzie, has requested an appointment on February 14, 2007 to discuss capacity they will need for a second ice rink and to use the tight tank on site as a grease trap. Mr. Vandal felt the tight tank could be used as a grease trap as long as it was modified to conform to the specifications of a grease trap by changing the T's. The Board reviewed that the Kingsbury Club had requested a reclassification of their assessment and had given up 11 ERU's of capacity. Had they kept their allocation as was originally assessed there probably would be no need to request additional capacity for the second rink.

The Board discussed that the Elementary School does not have a proper grease trap. They need to install a proper grease trap or they should be billed for pumping out the Hilltop Avenue pumping station.

The Board signed a letter to the owner of 8 Prospect Court regarding how he will be billed for sewer service since the property is using well water. Drain Layer renewals were reviewed and signed as was a betterment lien release and related letter.

The Board reviewed a form letter that was prepared for customers that will be using grinder pumps. The letter gives a breakdown of costs associated with operating the pump.

A flier containing information to explain the department budget was reviewed. The flier details where the money is spent. The cost to print 1500 fliers in black and white is \$120.00. The Board decided that this information should be provided to the public. Ms. Fiore will provide a copy of the flier to Mr. Donovan and review the information on January 30, 2007 at the State of the Town report at 6:40 PM.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Sean Walsh, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. The motion was unanimously voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant