

MINUTES
Annual Presentation – KIS
March 17, 2009

The Sewer Commission conducted their annual presentation this evening. Members present were Elaine Fiore. Mr. Cobb attended the Selectmen's meeting and Mr. Walsh was unable to attend. Ms. Fiore began the presentation promptly at 7:00 PM.

The Thorndike Development project was reviewed as it relates to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) expansion. Ms. Fiore reviewed that Thorndike no longer plans to connect their development to the WWTF and that they plan to build their own treatment plant. They will also build their own leaching fields for the development on their own property. The Sewer Commission will still obtain 7 acres of land on the Davis property and Thorndike will be responsible for construction of the leaching fields there. The Board is currently negotiating how much funding will be provided for additional service such as engineering/design services. The Sewer Commission still plans to build one new SBR to service the waiting list and to maintain the capability of taking septage in to generate additional revenue for the department. The goal is to work towards taking in enough septage to generate \$300,000.00 in septage revenue. This is a very aggressive goal. The cost of the expansion would be paid 2/3 by the people on the waiting list that are requesting the additional capacity. The remaining 1/3 of the debt would be paid with septage revenue. Anything left over would be added to the surplus revenue for future improvements and maintenance. The ball park estimate for the expansion is \$7,000,000.00. The Sewer Commission will be seeking a commitment from Thorndike to get the leaching field permitted and built as soon as possible.

Ms. Fiore reviewed the potential to reduce sewer user fees. At present the rate will be reduced from \$10.98 per thousand gallons of water used down to \$10.50 per thousand gallons of water used. This is a reduction of 48 cents per thousand gallons of water used. The Sewer Commissioners hope to be able to maintain this reduction through the current year and next year. If the plant expansion allows for additional septage revenue, the Commission hopes to be able to further reduce the user fees, but if it does not then the rate could possibly increase slightly again in 2 years. Again, this is a very aggressive plan and every effort will be made to continue to reduce rates.

Ms. Fiore discussed that Thorndike Development has approached the Board requesting that the treated effluent from the WWTF be provided to Thorndike for irrigation purposes. The Board is not aware of any housing development projects in Massachusetts that use reuse water for this type of irrigation. They are not in favor of it since the Town is responsible for the permit and all of the liability that is associated with any violations no matter the source. The department would have no control over what the developer does. To avoid any potential liability or legal actions and in order to protect the

sewer customers' interest, the Sewer Commission is not in favor of this option. It has nothing to do with being against going green with recycled wastewater.

In the interest of the sewer customers, the Sewer Commissioners have some legal matters pending. The Board is challenging enforcement of the Town By-Law that requires anyone seeking a building permit to have all fees owed to the Town paid in full before a permit is issued. There is a large user that has not paid any user fees and is seeking permits for a 40B development. The ZBA and the Planning Board have been advised by Town Counsel that it is appropriate to enforce the By-Law. The Sewer Commission needs the support from these Boards to collect the unpaid user fees.

There is a second case pending regarding a Phase 1 customer that has refused to connect to the sewer. A third case may be brought up for another customer that owes \$50,000.00 in user fees.

Town Meeting business was reviewed. The operating budget for FY 2010 is \$1,131,523.00. The Board will request that \$690,000.00 in surplus revenue be appropriated for the plant expansion. This money needs to be reserved now in order to preserve the surplus revenue for the wastewater project. Last year Town Meeting took \$200,000.00 in surplus funds that had been set aside in the account for improvements. About \$25,000.00 of the surplus will offset the operating budget. The other \$25,000.00 will replace a department vehicle that is 8 years old and has 194,000 miles on it. The vehicle will be used as long as possible and then replaced using these funds.

Ms. Fiore notified people of a Circuit Breaker tax credit that might be available to senior citizens for a deduction of their water/sewer charges. Forms were available for those interested in looking into the credit.

The Sewer Commission and the Conservation Agent, Maureen Thomas, are involved with a new Storm Smart Program with Plymouth and Duxbury. The Coastal Zone Management group is using grant money to establish a consistent plan among the 3 towns to deal with storm surge and sea level rise. Additional grant money might be available for improvements to help mitigate damage in such storm events.

The Board has been in attendance at a meeting between Thorndike Development and DEP regarding plans they have for their 40R development. DEP assured the Sewer Commissioners that they have not required any towns to take over private treatment plants and that they will not require Kingston to take over the Thorndike plant.

The Sewer Commissioners have learned about a new pilot program called BioMag. This is a new and more efficient treatment process that would allow the WWTF to take more flow with fewer SBRs. CDM is looking into testing this program at the WWTF. There is also the possibility to get new aerators for the SBRs. They are supposed to be more efficient and easier and less costly to maintain. CDM is looking into testing this as well.

Ms. Fiore displayed several conceptual and actual photos of the WWTF site and the proposed turbine location to demonstrate where it would be located in relation to the WWTF and Transfer Station. Distances from key structures were reviewed and it was noted that the location of the base footing for the turbine was located over 2 critical forced mains. The closest feature was the access road to the transfer station which is located only about 40 feet from the base of the turbine. It would not just be the WWTF in the direct path of any safety problems, but the transfer station that is accessible to the public. The Sewer Commissioners are not opposed to wind energy. The site is not

appropriate for the turbine project. The WWTF, the Transfer Station, the railroad tracks and the proposed highway ramp would all be located in a high risk area. The setbacks are not sufficient.

Question: Who would own the turbine?

Answer: The Town

Question: If the turbine were to fall it would destroy the WWTF. There would be no recourse would there?

Answer: The Sewer Commission asked how they would insure a turbine that does not meet the setback requirements but the Green Committee has not responded.

Question: Can we appeal locating a wind turbine at the WWTF and Transfer Station to the State as being an unsafe site?

Answer: The Sewer Commission will be consulting with DEP about this as the WWTF is permitted by DEP. The Green Committee has not provided any information to state that DEP has been consulted about it.

Question: If the turbine should fail and fall and damage the WWTF, what is Plan B for that?

Answer: The Sewer Commission does not know what the plan would be but residents and businesses would probably have to vacate their property if the treatment plant became inoperable and had to be shut down.

Question: What would the cost of the WWTF expansion be per equivalent residential unit?

Answer: We don't have firm numbers yet but it is estimated to cost about \$7,000,000.00 putting a betterment at about \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00 at today's figures.

Question: Who would be responsible for the Kingston's Place plant if they stopped maintaining it?

Answer: The Sewer Commissioners asked DEP specifically if the Town would be held responsible for the Kingston's Place plant after it is built and DEP said that they have not required towns to take over plants and that they would not hold Kingston liable for it.

Being no further questions pending, Ms. Fiore thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the presentation at 8:00 PM.

Suzanne Richards
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