

MINUTES
Revoli Construction
February 26, 2007

In Attendance:

Revoli: Shawqi Alsarabi, Alfredo Palumbo, Jim Goulet

Sewer Commission/Wastewater: Elaine Fiore, Peter Cobb /Ken Vandal

CDM: Robert Masse

Fire Chief: Robert Heath

Highway: Paul Basler

Robert Masse said that the meeting was called to discuss how to remove the ledge from the Summer Street pump station site and to review the need for blasting.

Chief Heath said he had issues with water, sewer NStar Gas & Electric and the MBTA so he has prohibited any blasting in the area. There is also a large culvert underground. The shock waves created from a blast would have some effect on all of these things.

Mr. Alsarabi said a pre-blast survey had been done for every structure within 250 feet of the blast area. They have also spoken to Jim Merrill at the MBTA about possible blasting. NStar has been notified through Dig Safe. The Water Department would be notified by Revoli. Mass. Highway wants Revoli to apply for a permit. It may or may not be covered in the original permit. The MBTA will need to send someone out to review the site. They will want a flagman on site the day blasting takes place.

Ms. Fiore stated that mechanical options should be exhausted before blasting is considered.

Mr. Alsarabi stated that his crew was still 8 to 10 feet from the ledge and that they will need to remove about 11 feet of material once they reach it. The pump station has to be up against the coffer dam because there is no more space within the easement to work.

Mr. Cobb asked if the Conservation Commission had been notified of the work being done on the new pump station. He was told that Maureen Thomas had been to the site and that everything was fine.

Mr. Masse reported that the first spile hit ledge at about 16 feet and one closer to the business block hit at about 23 feet. If blasting is needed it will be an open face blast and should not create much of a shock wave.

Mr. Alsarabi added that a scale distance is used to determine the amount of dynamite that should be used. The closest gas line is 25 to 30 feet away and the closest gas main is about 50 feet away on Summer Street. It will be costly to remove the material if blasting is not used.

Ms. Fiore asked for an estimate of how much it would cost to remove the material by mechanical methods. Mr. Alsarabi estimated it would cost \$5000.00 to \$6000.00 for a

machine with a hammer on it. This would have to be rented. Work could take up to a week at \$30,000.00 for the machine and at least \$50,000.00 for the crew. It could cost \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Chief Heath stated that if blasting took place he would want the MBTA shut down, Solstice to be closed and the business block evacuated.

Mr. Alsarabi stated that there would be no danger of any buildings collapsing. There would be no need to evacuate. They have had no problems with structures within 10 feet of a blast in past experiences. They did this type of work in Natick in 2004, in Ashland in 2004 and in Tewksbury. In Ashland they were very close to the pump station for the Algonquin gas line. The work would probably take about ½ hour to load the holes and about another ½ hour to cover them with dirt and place a blasting mat over it. It probably would be practical to do this in the middle of the day when the trains are less frequent and traffic is lighter. It would depend on the MBTA and Mass. Highway. Once approval is received it could be done the next day.

Chief Heath said he would be more comfortable with mechanical excavation.

Mr. Cobb mentioned that he lived in a blasting area during Phase 1 sewer construction in Rocky Nook. The blasting was almost on the surface and there were no problems. This blasting would be 16 feet deep.

Mr. Basler stated that the culvert under Summer Street is made of granite block. He did not anticipate any problems with it.

Chief Heath asked for a target date if they were to do this. Mr. Alsarabi stated it would depend on the final approval from Mass. Highway and the MBTA. His crew could be ready by the end of the day tomorrow and be ready to blast on Wednesday. Chief Heath continued that if he would like to get approval from NStar Gas and Electric and meet with them and representatives from Water, Highway, Paul Armstrong, CDM, Revoli and sewer at the site tomorrow. The MBTA will be contacted.

Mr. Palumbo mentioned that an application had been filed with Mass. Highway and he has been told that it has to be reviewed in Boston for approval. He asked for some assistance getting this issue expedited.

Mr. Alsarabi reported that if the rock did not break on the first day of blasting, it could take up to 3 days to complete the work. He will report to the Fire Department the day before blasting is expected so a 3-day permit can be issued.

Chief Heath said that Revoli should expect a fire detail to be present during any blasting.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant