

**Town of Millbury
Minutes of
Sewer Commission Meeting
September 10, 2019**

2019 SEP 25 AM 10:56

MILLBURY, MASS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Gary Nelson, Happy Erickson, Lisa Allain, Keith Caruso DPW Supervisor, Frank Stachura – Sewer Plant Operator and Christine Billington Clerk

Guest Speakers: Acting Town Manager James Kelley and Ray Willis from Onsite Engineering

ITEM TWO – PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Ray Willis of Onsite Engineering gave a handout on the cost of upgrading all of the pump stations. Elm Court pump station is still being held up by National Grid. Mr. Willis is hoping that National Grid will cooperate soon. Mr. Willis spoke about if something happens like it did at the Cape when they had the tornado if Millbury will be prepared for something like that.

Chairman Nelson asked Keith about the boots for the wires and Keith stated that the Grid will not go along with that.

Mr. Kelley thinks that it is about cooperate issues with the Grid. Mr. Kelley has spoken to Mr. Shunassey from the Grid and they agree to a meeting. Their solution for the Elm Court pump station is to do a portable generator, then it was said what happens if there is 12 inches of snow how do you get a portable generator to the site. Mr. Kelley is willing to go up the cooperate ladder to get this issue resolved. Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Kelley if there was a date set for the meeting and as of yet there is no date set.

Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Willis how much time do we have if the power goes out on a pump station. Mr. Willis said it could be hours or minutes, it all depends on the amount of flow that goes into the pump station. Frank stated that they had to have someone come pump the pump station out when the power went out. Chairman Nelson asked Frank the response time and Frank stated that they try to get to the station within one hour but if they are out plowing the streets then it could be more than an hour depending on where they are at the time.

Mr. Kelley stated that he went down to the Elm Court pump station with Keith Caruso and stated that it is very tight down there so how will they get a portable generator down to the station. They would probably need to make an 80 point turn to get the generator in. Keith stated they would have a hard time getting a generator onsite.

Mr. Kelley asked if we have a contact at DEP that could come to the next meeting with the Grid in order to help. Mr. Kelley stated that the problem is that we do not have a specific easement for the Elm Court pump station. Mr. Willis stated that the Grid has a copy of the new plans for the pump station that has everything moved back as far as possible. Happy asked if we could take the land by eminent domain and it was stated that you cannot take land from the power company. Happy also asked if we could keep the same design and just use a smaller generator but Mr. Willis stated that we could not do that because the lines need to be updated also and the generator would not be able to hold the power.

Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Kelley if the meeting can be expedite because this has been going on for over a year. Mr. Kelley stated he will put this on top priority on his list and will get back to Chairman Nelson within the week on dates to get together with the Grid.

The list Mr. Willis put together for the board to look at for the pump stations. Happy asked what the next pump station would be if Elm Court could not be done. Frank stated that Rayburn drive is the most maintenance. Chairman Nelson said it would have to be Warren Street pump station because it would be the easiest to fix and they have the money to fix it. Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Willis to put something together on the Warren Street station. Chairman Nelson asked if it could go out to bid this year and Mr. Willis said it was possible and looking for March or Spring for install. Chairman Nelson asked if they money needs to be spent by June of 2020 because it will be two years since the warrant article was approved. Mr. Kelley stated he will check with the Finance Director on this and get back to the Board.

Mr. Kelley left the meeting at 6:03 pm thanking the board. Mr. Kelley came back into the meeting and stated he talked with Finance and that you need to be under contract before June 30, 2020 in order to encumber the money for the project.

Chairman Nelson asked the members if they had any more questions for Mr. Willis and the board said no, Mr. Willis thanked the board and he will get back to them with information on Warren Street pump station.

ITEM THREE – INVOICES

Miscellaneous invoices reviewed, approved and signed by Sewer Commission.

Warrant for Sept. 2019 sewer bills in the amount of \$1,275,079.50, Lisa made the motion to approve and Happy seconded the motion all were in favor of signing the warrant.

Warrant for Sept. 2019 sewer bills in the amount of \$28,363.80, Happy made the motion to approve and Lisa seconded the motion all were in favor of signing the warrant.

ITEM FOUR – MINUTES

Approved the Minutes from August 27, 2019. Lisa made the motion to approve Happy seconded the motion all were in favor to approve minutes.

ITEM FIVE - OPERATIONS:

Gary asked Frank what was going on and Frank stated that they are doing general maintenance to the pump stations. Gary then asked Keith if he had anything new and Keith stated no nothing new to report. Chairman Nelson asked Frank what was going on with the calibrations and Sutton and Frank stated that he is waiting on getting the calibrations completed.

ITEM SIX – ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

Nothing at this time

ITEM SEVEN – BETTERMENTS:

Nothing at this time

ITEM EIGHT – SEWER EXTENSIONS/CONNECTIONS:

Nothing at this time

ITEM NINE– ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Chairman Nelson wanted to keep the Board members updated and gave everyone a copy of what the increase would be for the sewer bills. It was stated that there was not a significant increase. Chairman Nelson stated that there is a Special Town Meeting November 12, 2019 and that the board has three warrant articles: 1st is the money that was never put into the budget; 2nd is money for a person to start at the sewer plant for a half year so they can get up to speed before Jamie retires; 3rd is the money for the tip project on McCracken Road. Chairman Nelson asked where the flow would go. Frank is not sure but it would probably need to be pumped. A pump station would need to be put in. Keith is going to reach out to VHB to see what needs to be done. Happy was surprised on how much land was on McCracken Road. Happy stated that there are Septic systems on Greenwood Street. Chairman Nelson stated he has not heard anything from Clearview on what is going on. Laurie Connors talked to Keith and said there was drainage issues up at Clearview which the board already know about.

Chairman Nelson said that the survey that was done on charging the Schools and other town buildings were most charge the sewer to the Schools and other town building. Christine gave the board a list of each town location and how much each building would be responsible for and Chairman Nelson stated that this is something we need to look into. Happy stated that the schools charge for use of their buildings so why not charge them.

ITEM TEN – FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next regular scheduled meetings will be held September 24, 2019 and October 8, 2019. Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted and/or cancelled.

ITEM ELEVEN – ADJOURNMENT

At 6:21 p.m. Happy Erickson made the motion to adjourn Lisa seconded the motion all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Billington
Clerk-Sewer Department



Gary Nelson



Happy Erickson



Lisa Allain