

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL  
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015  
6:30 P.M.**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Brown, Cebula, Hughes, LaMantia, MacAskill

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Supt. Scott Carpenter, John Rendon, Heinz Proft, Sheila House, Bob Cafarelli, Matt Hart, Richard Larios, Dana DeCosta, Noreen Donahue, Ed McManus, Jack Brown, Lou Urbano, Sally Urbano, Bob Bradley, Greg Winston, Anne Stewart, Dan Pelletier, Richard Waystack, and others.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Peter Hughes.

**WEEKLY BRIEFING**

A. Albro House Project Status

Mr. Urbano stated that the only items left that need to be done on the Albro House are a small piece of porch that needs to be redone, and the white addition and the garage need to be taken down. He asked Mr. Clark to put together something for Town Meeting for every homeowner to donate \$20 for a 5 year period for maintenance for fixing of Town owned properties. He said he and Sally will be paying for a sign at the West Harwich Schoolhouse. Sheila House presented Mr. Urbano with some gifts from local businesses. Chairman Hughes presented Lou and Sally Urbano with a plaque in recognition of their efforts to revitalize the Albro House. Greg Winston of the Historical Commission thanked Lou and Sally Urbano and submitted donations to Mr. Clark for the fund.

Mr. McManus presented a framed poster that was given by AmeriCorps at a recent Assembly of Delegates meeting. He noted that there is one for each town in recognition of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AmeriCorps of Cape Cod with the theme of 15 towns and 15 trees as they planted a tree in each town that they are active in. Heinz Proft spoke on some of the AmeriCorps projects in Harwich.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Hughes said that National Grid has committed to visit us in September to make a presentation in response to questions that came up at the Non-Resident Taxpayers meeting regarding the moratorium.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve Minutes:

1. March 4, 2015 Regular Meeting (pre-election)
2. March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting (pre-election)
3. April 1, 2015 Regular Meeting (pre-election)
4. May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting (pre-election)

5. May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting (pre-election)
  6. June 1, 2015 Regular Meeting
  7. July 27, 2015 Regular Meeting
  8. August 10, 2015 Regular Meeting
  9. July 29, 2015 Regular Meeting (Hughes, LaMantia, MacAskill)
- B. Approve application by Harwich Fire Association for Road Race on September 26, 2015
  - C. Accept gifts to the Council on Aging Gift Account totaling \$1,274.00
  - D. Approve additions to definitions in Harbor Management Plan for Waterways Capital Improvement Receipts Reserve Fund and Waterways Improvement & Maintenance Fund
  - E. Approve request by Monomoy Regional School District to install new sign at Elementary School
  - F. Approve request by Republican Town Committee to amend Election Worker List
  - G. Approve award of contract for Saquatucket Harbor Improvements Engineering Design to Bourne Consulting Engineering, P.C. in the amount of \$186,454
  - H. Approve award of contract for Muddy Creek Bridge to MAS Building and Bridge in the amount of \$4,791,311.80

Ms. Cebula moved approval of Items A1 through A5. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a 3-0-0 vote (LaMantia, Hughes, Cebula).

Ms. Brown moved approval of Items A6 through A9, B, C, E, and G. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion. Ms. Cebula moved to amend the motion that Item E is subject to the approval of the Building Inspector. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote. The main motion also carried by a unanimous vote.

With regard to Item D, Mr. Hart, Chairman of the Waterways Committee, explained the changes to the Harbor Management Plan. Ms. Cebula moved to accept Item D. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hughes recused himself on Item F. Ms. Brown moved to approve Item F. Mr. MacAskill seconded the motion and the motion carried by a 4-0-0 vote.

Ms. Cebula moved to approve Item H. Mr. MacAskill seconded the motion. Mr. Cafarelli went over the bid process and some of the elements of the plan and Mr. Clark reviewed the financial aspects and noted that we have two grants and sufficient funds to award the contract as well as some contingencies. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS** *(Not earlier than 6:30 P.M.)*

- A. Joint Meeting with Finance Committee on the following topics - *discussion*:

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee discussed the following topics. No action or votes were taken.

1. Board of Selectmen FY16 financial goals & objectives

2. MRSD/Harwich 5 year financial guidelines
3. 7 year debt schedule with capital plan overlay in graphical form
4. Municipal Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Fund (<= 3% surcharge)
5. Finance Committee opinion regarding organizational structure of Wastewater
6. Wastewater Enterprise Fund
7. Budget/Warrant Timeline for FY17

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Wastewater Educational Moment – Alternative Onsite Treatment Systems – *discussion*

Chairman Hughes provided the attached Power Point presentation on Alternative Onsite Treatment Systems from Barnstable County.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- A. Landfill solar revenues

Mr. Clark stated that he and Mr. Gould met with Liz Argo from CVEC and she had indicated that we have completed the first year. He said they are trying to get their accounting so we can actually have a full accounting for that year. He noted that it does look like we are at about \$330,000 due to the arrival of the check that came in after the fiscal year so it would be about \$267,000 for FY15. He stated that Ms. Argo said that the annual report for last year will be due in and we'll get a report on September 15. He further stated that we did put in a request to in regard to the Water Department to identify those utilities that are related to the Water Department so that when Mr. Gould does the accounting it can be assessed as we go.

- B. Assistant Town Administrator Search

Mr. Clark reported that the Search Committee had a meeting today and will begin interviews at the end of this week and the first week in September.

- C. Eversource herbicide spraying

Mr. Clark reported that we have received a response to our letter to Eversource which doesn't go outside of what they have been saying all along that they will be following their own process. He said that it does not appear that they have picked up on any of the thoughts that were suggested to them by the Board of Selectmen or Conservation Commission. Chairman Hughes recommended that the Board send them a letter back saying, as a minimum, that we need to be notified a certain amount of hours ahead of time that this activity is going to happen. Ms. Cebula moved that we send yet another letter to the Eversource people requesting the 48 hour notification before they spray. Mr. MacAskill seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

With regard to Item A, landfill solar revenues, Mr. MacAskill asked what is and when can we get the calculation for the Water Department. Mr. Clark said he did ask for it, that he wanted to see if they had the meters by department and all they gave him was the meter numbers and now he has

to backtrack through it. He said in the future we will ask them to identify so we know the allocations. Mr. MacAskill asked how quickly we can get the Commissioners a number. Mr. Clark said it would be probably by October 1.

#### D. Status of former Fire Station on Bank Street

Mr. Clark stated there is a request by a Church that we make available by sale or lease the former Fire Station on Bank Street. He noted that the Harbormaster does actively use that site and is willing to vacate the building if he can move into something closer to Saquatucket Harbor which is probably 2 years away. He added that the land is used for parking for the Harwich Conservation Trust and they would like to retain the parking.

Mr. Rendon stated that it is their primary workshop and they do all their maintenance and building out of there and the building is clearly not surplus yet. He stated that he would like his operation closer to the harbor and it is a critical facility to his department. He said he can't stress enough that they are not in a position to vacate that workshop and he hopes that is understood. He said it is his intention to come forward with a proposal for engineering design for what they want to do on site with a plan the following year to go into construction.

Mr. Waystack stated this all began at Town Meeting, when the capital budget was approved there was a line item for demolition of the building after which he was asked by the Church to help them find a new facility. He recommended they look at reusing these buildings. He requested that this be put on the agenda for discussion and suggested that we send out an RFI to reutilize these buildings.

#### E. Town Counsel hourly rates

Mr. Clark reported that Kopelman & Paige is increasing their fee \$5 per hour. He said it is reasonable and it has been five years since they increased their fee. Chairman Hughes asked for a spreadsheet of our legal counsels and their rates as well as any recommendation he may have for shifts or changes in legal counsel.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Hughes adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

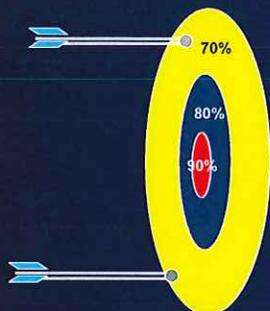
Ann Steidel  
Recording Secretary

## Related Documents - 8/24/15 BOS Meeting

- 01 Agenda.pdf
- 02 Minutes - March 4.pdf
- 03 Minutes - March 11.pdf
- 04 Minutes - April 1.pdf
- 05 Minutes - May 4.pdf
- 06 Minutes - May 5.pdf
- 07 Minutes - June 1.pdf
- 08 Minutes - July 27.pdf
- 09 Minutes - August 10.pdf
- 10 Minutes - July 29.pdf
- 11 Road Race Application.pdf
- 12 Gifts to COA.pdf
- 13 Harbor Mgmt Plan Definitions.pdf
- 14 Elementary School Sign.pdf
- 15 Election Workers.pdf
- 16 Saquatucket Design Award.pdf
- 17 Muddy Creek Award.pdf
- 18 BOS Goals & Objectives.pdf
- 19 MRSD Funding.pdf
- 20 Budget Warrant Timeline.pdf
- 21 Wastewater Presentation Cover.pdf
- 22 Eversource Spraying.pdf
- 23 Bank St. Harbormaster Building.pdf
- 24 Town Counsel Hourly Rates.pdf

## What level of wastewater treatment do I need ?

Generally, if the target removal rate exceeds 60% the majority of onsite alternatives can not meet that target.



## INNOVATIVE ALTERNATIVE ONSITE

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS FOR THE REMOVAL OF NITROGEN IN

## BARNSTABLE COUNTY

What role should they play in Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans?



## What is that conclusion based on ?

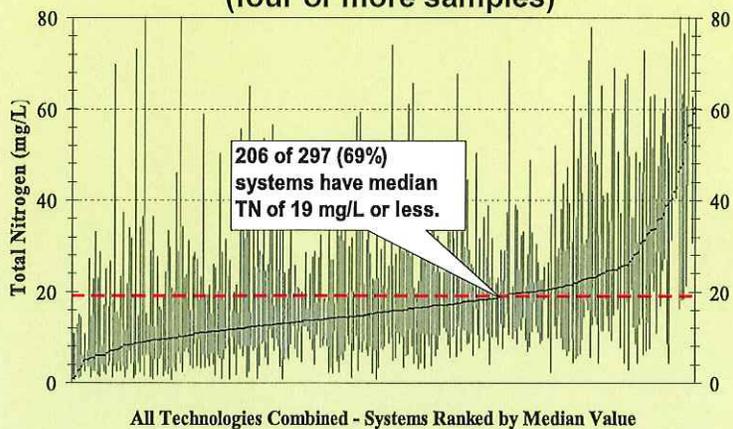
In the absence of other data such as water use, occupancy, use patterns

19 mg/L ~ 50% Nitrogen Removal

## Disclaimer

*The mention of any product or company in this paper does not constitute an endorsement by Barnstable County. Data contained herein were reported by various service providers for alternative onsite septic system components. The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment does not guarantee the data accuracy beyond that point implied by the collection, processing and reporting practices required or implied by the system operator's Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license.*

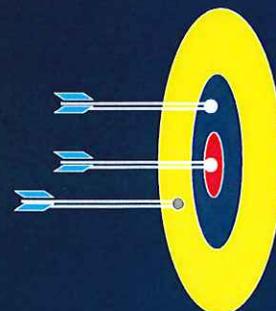
## Single Family – All Technologies Combined (four or more samples)



## What level of wastewater treatment do I need ?

Removal targets are determined by studies conducted under the Massachusetts Estuaries Program and are based on the assimilative capacity of the particular embayment.

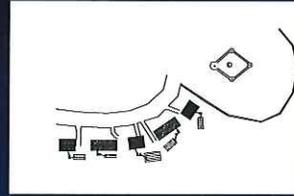
(how much it can take before showing undesirable effects)



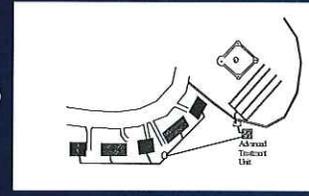
# What about Cluster Systems ?

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT UNDER A DIFFERENT REGULATORY SCENARIO CLUSTER SYSTEMS COULD NOT DO BETTER (*COSTS* DRIVE PERFORMANCE)

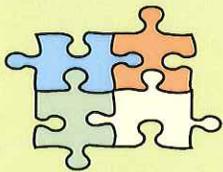
(EVIDENCE THE GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE PROGRAM)



Every residence has their own system



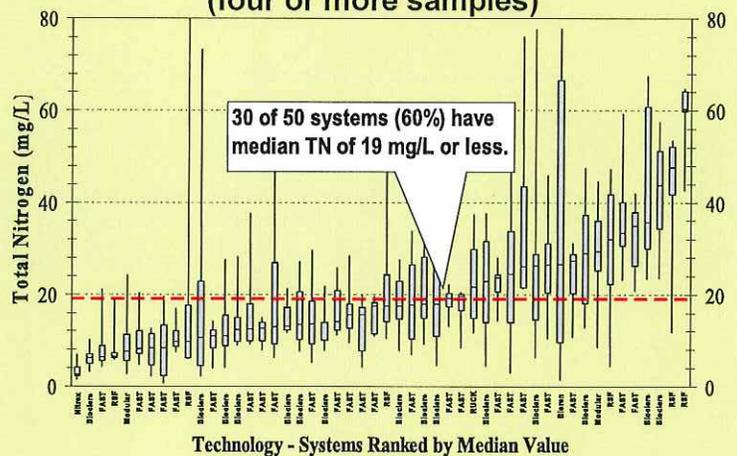
Various numbers of residences share a system



## Conclusions

- The data suggest an ability for onsite septic systems to remove 50-60% of the nitrogen, when they are installed in conjunction with an operations, maintenance on monitoring scheme.
- Individual systems will vary widely in their performance due to various factors including water use, occupancy, residence use patterns and operator skills.
- Cluster systems were not shown to perform as well as individual onsite systems, but this is not due to inherent problems with the cluster system approach.

## Multi-Family – All Technologies Combined (four or more samples)



## Our Experience in Barnstable County

Are there promising technologies not yet in common usage?

The data suggest that, for systems less than 10,000 gallons per day only 60% have been meeting the nitrogen removal rate of 50%.

## I/A Systems: Economics

### Present value cost of I/A system

- Present value analysis brings all costs associated with system installation, maintenance and operation of the system, over the entire life of the system, into present dollars
- i.e. How much money would I have to set aside today to cover all costs associated with the system over it's life span?

## Nitrex

The data from Nitrex installations in Barnstable County and elsewhere give promise of a technology that can meet a 5 mg/L discharge.

## I/A Systems: Economics

### Present value cost of I/A system

- Assumptions:
  - Installation cost \$10,000 (I/A treatment unit only)
  - Annual O&M contract \$1200/yr
  - Electricity to operate \$350/yr
  - Quarterly inspection and effluent sampling
  - 20 year life of system
  - 5% interest rate

Yields present value of roughly \$35,000.

## The not-so-hidden costs of using onsite solutions

- Operation costs including electricity (many units use 5-6 kWh/day)
- Monitoring costs (you must monitor systems to confirm removal levels)
- Maintenance – Every system MUST be on a maintenance contract.
- Regulatory oversight (we estimate 1 FTE per 1500 onsite systems)
- Residuals must be more aggressively managed.



## General conclusions from the onsite perspective

- Innovative alternative septic systems offer a viable technology option to communities in areas where the required total removal of nitrogen from wastewater in a watershed is 50-60%.
- When innovative alternative septic systems are being considered, the costs of monitoring, maintenance, regulatory oversight and management of residuals must be factored in.
- There are some promising technologies which may change the analyses by providing higher levels of treatment for nitrogen.
- Communities should at least consider the viability of diversion strategies (composting and urine diversion).

## I/A Systems: Economics

- Individual I/A on-sites are not inexpensive
- Installation cost: \$10,000 above cost of Title 5 system
- Significant Annual Costs
  - Operation and Maintenance contract (\$1200)
  - Electricity costs (\$350)
  - Effluent Sampling (\$400, included in cost of O&M)
  - Total annual cost to operate= \$1550