

APPROVED

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TOWN CLERK
HARWICH, MA

**WORKING GROUP MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
DONN B. GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL
732 MAIN STREET, HARWICH, MA
WORKING GROUP SESSION 6:00 PM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

2023 OCT -3 A 10:57

RELEASED

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Mary Anderson ,Chair, Julie Kavanagh, Vice Chair, Jeff Handler, Clerk, Don Howell and Michael MacAskill

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Joseph F. Powers, Town Administrator, Board of Health and Board of Water/Wastewater Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER: Madam Chair called the meeting of the Harwich Select Board to order at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023

Ms. Anderson stated that this is a working session and is open to the public, there is a published agenda, minutes are taken, and it is a brainstorming session where no votes will be taken. Nothing is being hidden from the public.

There was general discussion on the following topics

- The need to add a member of the SB to the Harwich/Chatham IMA
- Wequassett's potential tie into phase 3 and related expense issues.
- The Town of Dennis's plans for building a wastewater treatment plant which is expected to go to their next Town meeting.
- Regionalization possibilities for Harwich.
- Need for Harwich to file a Notice of Intent in advance of the watershed permits including the suggestion to file one comprehensive permit rather than 4 individual ones.
- Harwich's progress with the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan positions the town well with the revised regulations.
- The timeline for phase 3 is 24-36 months out.
- Staffing is currently contracted with Weston and Sampson and will remain so until it is cost effective to hire staff.
- Wastewater staff and in particular the Assistant Superintendant position.
- Forbearance for both timing and financial hardships and the potential for the Board of Health and the Board of Assessors to collaborate on a policy.

Mr. Carreiro requested a date for a joint Executive Session to discuss personnel strategy. Ms Anderson agreed to set a date with him following the meeting.

It was agreed that we needed better communication between all parties moving forward.

It was further agreed that the agenda for our joint meeting would include, at a minimum, the following items:

1. Harwich/ Chatham IMA representative
2. DEP notice to file a Notice of Intent or a watershed permit

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3. Discussion on relief/forbearance/hardships for sewer connection
4. Status of the Wastewater Assistant Superintendent position.

All attendees were encouraged to submit additional agenda topics.

ADJOURNMENT

The working session of the Select Board adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Handler
Clerk
Harwich Select Board

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