

Harwich Water Department
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chair Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Gary Carreiro, Superintendent Dan Pelletier, Selectman Mike MacAskill, Secretary Tracey Alves

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.

The Chair began by commenting about having watched the Board of Selectmen meet with Finance Committee on August 24, 2015.

The Board of Water Commissioners discussed their thoughts in regards to forming a Board of Water & Wastewater. As it stands the Water Commission voted for Water to take on the responsibilities of Wastewater in which a Board of Water & Wastewater would form. The proposed model of the new Board would consist of 5 elected members, where in the event that a seat doesn't fill, the Board of Selectmen has the authority to appoint a body to that seat until someone is elected. The Board will present this governance model on Monday evening, September 14, 2015 to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting.

Superintendent Pelletier believes that it makes sense to combine water & wastewater. The Water Department's SCADA operating system is designed to not only handle water but wastewater as well. A good approach is to look at the first 5-10 years of planning for and implementing the project first. Until effluent is flowing to Chatham, Pelletier would be the one overseeing the project.

This project is a service to the Town. The articles for wastewater will be presented at Town meeting and anyone can speak for or against. If one doesn't like the way it goes they don't have to support it.

Technology changes every day. Planning and implementing wastewater should be done on an adaptive management basis.

Chair Gonsalves commented that it is very important for water to remain stable.

The Water Department built its existing infrastructure and most recently it has built two new treatment plants. Many of the Water Department buildings are old but they are immaculate and very well maintained.

A tour of the Water Department's facilities really should be recorded on video and uploaded onto the website so people can see the Town's assets.

The Board of Selectmen meeting with the Finance Committee of August 24, 2015 reflected that we've lost a sense of community.

Wastewater is a huge undertaking. We are all in this together. The Board of Water Commissioners wants to be able to have open conversation with the Selectmen and Fin Com to make the project succeed for the personal benefit of the Town.

The Board of Water Commissioners would like to extend their role and govern over both water and wastewater.

Chair Thompson read and excerpt from a draft study that was done back in 2012 regarding the implementation of wastewater into Harwich.

The topic of storm water was discussed. The DPW is currently in charge of storm water.

The new Superintendent of the Water Department's title is the Superintendent of Water & Wastewater. This title was voted on by the Board of Selectmen and the Water Commissioners.

Selectman MacAskill stated that the site for effluent discharge really needs to be pinned down to satisfy IMA. Far too much time has been spent talking about it.

The Town of Harwich has 512 pieces of property. There must be one piece of land that can be beneficial.

Superintendent Pelletier explained the similarities between how sewer infrastructure and water infrastructure are built. Pelletier has past experience in building infrastructure.


The Board will meet again on Thursday, September 17, 2015.


Vice Chairman Gonsalves motioned to adjourn at 8:30 a.m. with a second from Clerk Carreiro; 3-0-0

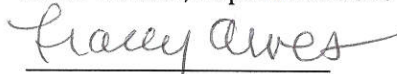
Respectfully submitted,


Allin P. Thompson, Chairman


Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chair


Gary Carreiro, Clerk


Dan Pelletier, Superintendent


Tracey Alves, Board Secretary