

Sewer Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
7:00pm
North Hearing Room
3rd Floor Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm in the Central Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of the Hingham Town Hall. Those in attendance included Commissioners Robert Higgins, Ed Demko and Ken Johnson; Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent; Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor; Liz Welch, DPW Office Administrator; Tom Patch, Jennifer Burtner, Philip Bleak and John Hersey.

Tom Patch is recording this meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes - December 8, 2015 and December 15, 2015

Commissioner Johnson made a Motion to approve the minutes as recorded for the December 8, 2015 and December 15, 2015 minutes. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Demko and was passed with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7:00pm.

2. **Questions from the public regarding items not on the agenda**

Commissioner Higgins stated that we are trying a new format and we will give the public a chance to speak

Philip Bleak, 22 Powers Lane, wanted to thank the Commission for their recent public records request. He understands there a few more records that have come in and he stated that he will be submitting an additional public records request at the end of this meeting.

Tom Patch stated that last June that he had put in a Public Records Request to several departments and he has not yet received all of the documents. He explained that he had brought this up at the September meeting and that Commissioner Higgins had instructed Liz Welch to provide the records. He only received one part of the request from Liz Welch. He did hear back from Sue Nickerson who had sent the first response to an incorrect email. Tom Patch stated that he should be able to look at the Sewer Commission records. Tom Patch kept speaking over Commissioner Higgins as he spoke. Commissioner Higgins's then stated that Tom Patch was out of order and told him that this discussion was over. Tom Patch then repeatedly shouted at Commissioner Higgins that he was refusing to give him records. To which Commissioner Higgins adamantly denied. Tom Patch then said to Commissioner Higgins that "he will get to say this under a deposition and he can't wait under a penalty of perjury".

Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent, then explained to Tom Patch that he asked about these records some time ago and he never came in to look at them. We have all this information in the office. Just call the office and you are welcome to come in to look at it.

Philip Bleak then wanted to update the Sewer Commission on 170 Rockland Street. Commissioner Higgins did not want to speak on this issue at this meeting since it was not on the agenda.

John Hersey wanted to know when the Sewer Commissioner is going to take questions from the public at the start of the agenda like other committees do. Commissioner Higgins stated it is on the agenda. John Hersey stated that he has been out of the loop with this issue. Commissioner Higgins stated that the Commission will not speak about this issue since it is not on the agenda.

3. **Rules and Regulations Update**

Commissioner Higgins announced that the deadline to receive public comments on the Sewer Rules and Regulations is January 22, 2016. The Commission will then review their comments and plan to vote to adopt the Sewer Rules and Regulations at the February 9, 2016 meeting.

4. **Vote to assign a Sewer Commission member as a liaison to Special Town Counsel for the Thomas F. Patch v. Town of Hingham, et. al. - Civil Action #15-00911B**

Commissioner Johnson made a MOTION to appoint Commissioner Higgins as a liaison to Special Town Counsel for the Thomas F. Patch v. Town of Hingham, et. al. - Civil Action #15-00911B. The MOTION was seconded by Commissioner Demko and was passed with a unanimous vote.

5. **Supervisor's Report**

Stephen Dempsey, Sewer Supervisor, reported that the past month has been spent performing routine maintenance and inspections. The crew replaced the lifting bales on both pumps at Malcolm Street Station and the interior of several stations have been painted.

Stephen Dempsey explained that as a result of regular FOG inspections, an order was written to a food establishment not in compliance with the regulation. On February 1, 2016 he will meet with the Board of Health and the owner of the establishment to determine the necessary corrective actions to ensure that the food establishment stays in compliance.

In addition, Stephen Dempsey explained that routine street mark outs and connection inspections have been performed.

Commissioner Demko then requested that a monthly flow chart be given to all Sewer Commissioners. He would like to know how much each station is pumping. Randy Sylvester explained that the program we use is on a website and we log in to get our daily flows. After discussion, it was then decided that the Commissioners would like to be given a basic summary monthly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Welch
Office Administrator