

**Minutes
Of
The Foxboro Water and Sewer Commissioners
April 24, 2013**

Members in Attendance: Chairman Bill Euerle Vice Chairman M. Stanton, Clerk R. Pacella, DPW Director R. Hill, B. Garber, Planning Board member G. Greene, Board of Selectmen G. Coppola

This is a workshop meeting for IMA issues. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Board wanted to review the financial scenarios for the IMA and the 'do nothing' scenario.

If the town does not join the IMA, there will still be upgrades that need to be done to the existing plant and Foxboro's share will be \$18 million; this will have to be paid by the existing users.

If the town joins the IMA the cost will be \$24 million and the town will have additional gallons available to get more users.

Mr. Hill stated that the numbers given were based on three different scenarios; the expanded plant will have 1 million gallons of additional flow available for the three towns. The first scenario has Norton taking 370,000 of these gallons, the second scenario has Norton taking 250,000 gallons and the third scenario is just the upgrade of the existing plant.

The 'do nothing' scenario is for required upgrades by the DEP to comply with current regulations. This will result in rate increases for the current users over the next ten years and there will be no ability to add sewer capacity as the Title 5 flows will not be able to be captured. One of the required upgrades is for nutrient removal from the effluent flow before it can be discharged, which is more stringent than it used to be. The DEP is also not allowing any additional river discharge amounts. The 3.14 million gallons being discharged currently to the Taunton River Watershed will not change, but no additional flow will be allowed to be added, any additional future flow will have to be discharged into the ground.

The Board discussed the need for a strategy to build capital reserves into the rates so if there are future situations like this, there will be funding available for it.

The financial strategy for the expanded plant is to expand the user base to be able to finance the \$24 million by selling new capacity. There are no guarantees that it could be sold in the timeframe needed but conservative figures were used in the amounts available initially, sell 6,000 gallons the first year, with an additional 35,000 gallons over the next ten years. This would help protect existing ratepayers and be able to justify joining the IMA. The existing ratepayers would not have to pay for bonds to expand the plant.

Mr. Stanton stated that if economy gets better, the town is probably on good footing to say that there is at least 30,000 gpd of pent up demand or there would be additional requests that could be sold in the next 5 years which is how long it takes to build the plant; this is taking into account commercial users only. Originally it was thought that there could be potential for up to 50,000 gpd.

Mr. Greene wanted to know if the cost per gallon price would have an impact on whether or not people would hook up to sewer. Mr. Hill stated that the amount is comparable to having a septic system installed for a four bedroom house. There would also be no upkeep required on the homeowner's part to have town sewer unlike septic system maintenance. The scenarios concentrate mostly on commercial users, not residential users.

The Board discussed the initial price per gallon being lower and then going up as the financing amount rises instead of having a large cost from the beginning. Mr. Hill can structure a rate to accommodate this.

Ms. Coppola is against having any flow go to Sharon to help their economy. This would only be an option if not enough capacity is sold in Foxboro. The developer was told that it was premature to discuss this with them at this time.

When the IMA was originally proposed, the 1 million was to be split with Mansfield taking 500,000 and the other 500,000 being split between Norton and Foxboro. The Easton wanted to join which brought Foxboro down to 175,000 from 250,000. Easton hasn't has a Town Meeting on this topic yet.

Mr. Hill is having a meeting with Cannon Forge this week; they have 90,000 in unused Title 5 capacity that they would be willing to sell to the town when it is needed at \$5.07 per gallon.

If the pent up demand kicks in quickly, the town can start selling flow now to capture the flow costs plus buy in costs. The Board discussed the best way to present this to the town.

Mr. Greene noted that the Bradlees plaza developers just updated their septic system so they would probably not need additional flow from the town, Invensys will also be abandoning their Bristol park location.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray

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These minutes of April 24, 2013 were approved as amended on May 20, 2013.


Richard M. Pacella, Jr., Clerk