

**Minutes
Of
The Foxboro Water and Sewer Commissioners
February 19, 2013**

Members in Attendance: Chairman W. Euerle, Clerk R. Pacella, DPW Director R. Hill, Water Superintendent R. Worthley, Planning Board K. Weinfeld, G. Greene and B. Grieder, BOS G. Coppola, Town Engineer B. Swanson (at 7:45 p.m.), Finance Officer R. Scollins (7:50 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Euerle.

The Board discussed the Capital Budget for water. There will be four items addressed: \$500,000 for system improvements, \$500,000 for tank maintenance, \$170,000 for a generator at Station 1 and \$75,000 for a trailer with tools for valve maintenance.

The generator will be natural gas as a diesel one would require a triple containment area. The tank maintenance would include replacement of the tank if the hydraulic model shows it is still needed, it is a 1 million gallon tank.

A motion to accept the recommended Capital Improvement items was approved 2-0.

There are no Capital Improvement items for sewer at this time. The \$87,000 for design costs of the new plant can be taken from elsewhere in the budget. The I/I work can also be done without CIP.

The Board reviewed the latest Sewer Rate Model. The buy in amount would be \$41.13 per gallon. This model does not include any ad revenue and a 2.4% interest rate was used. The sale of capacity would need to be 6,000 GPD for the first 2-3 years with a total of \$35,000 GPD over 10 years.

The Board discussed how sewer growth would be good for the town and the revitalization of downtown.

Mr. Swanson arrived at 7:45 p.m.

The Board discussed the need for Town Meeting to back the risk if the 35,000 gallons do not get sold. The Board was told by the Town Manager and the Finance Officer that this needs to be self-sufficient by selling capacity.

Mr. Grieder stated that there should be an article for Town Meeting for the taxpayers to contribute for downtown capacity. The Planning Board would be willing to sponsor an article for the purchase and reserve of 12,000 gpd of sewer capacity for the downtown area, which was shown on a plan at the February 11, 2013 meeting. Mr. Swanson stated that the capital cost would be approximately \$480,000 but that funds would be borrowed by the WWTP district and Foxboro would get an annual mortgage payment of about \$22,000 per year for 30 years. Mr. Swanson recommended that the \$480,000 be put through the CIP committee and a CIP warrant article be submitted for \$480,000 with an annual payment of \$22,000 to be repaid through the town tax rate.

Mr. Scollins joined the discussion at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Scollins added that the small amount of borrowing the \$22,000 could be included in the Town's annual debt service.

Mr. Scollins stated that if the capacity isn't sold and the enterprise account is short there would be no money in retained earnings. The Department of Revenue states that the town cannot set the tax rate with a deficit in an enterprise account. The enterprise account would need to be replenished with money from the General Fund. This would be done similarly to the Snow and Ice fund.

As far as taxpayers funding the downtown capacity, this could be done through debt service or the amount could be sequestered and sold to only downtown users as needed.

The Special Town Counsel is reviewing Article 15 from 2008 which defined the rights of the Water and Sewer Board in establishing districts.

The Board discussed the need to go to Town Meeting to expand or get into the district.

The Planning Board's Master Plan work is dependant on sewers for downtown.

Mr. Hill read the response letter to Mr. Shelmerdine who was looking for out of town capacity. The request cannot be addressed at this time.

Mr. Worthley explained to the Board that the phosphate change had helped with water quality in town; there have been few complaints of dirty water.

A Munis consultant was hired to help the office get the reports that are needed; he had an answer in two hours.

The resident of 30 Taylor Road had commented to the Board of Selectmen about his water bill. His bill was always \$180 and is now only \$53. Mr. Worthley will have his meter replaced and sent out to be tested to see if it is defective.

Mr. Pacella commented on the recent story that the water department is selling water at cheap rates. He looked at the 2010 comparison and it showed Foxboro's rates were on the high side. Mr. Worthley will work on another comparison in March after the state reports are done.

A motion to approve payment of an invoice from Deutsch Williams as Special Counsel in the amount of \$2562 was approved 2-0. This is part of the \$6,000 that was approved for their work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray

These minutes of February 19, 2013 were approved as amended on March 18, 2013.


Richard Pacella, Clerk