

**TOWN OF HARVARD**  
TOWN CENTER WASTEWATER POLICY COMMITTEE  
Minutes

**Meeting Date:** January 25, 2010

**Meeting Place:** Downstairs, Old Library

**Members Present:** Scott Hayward (Chairman), Pat Jennings, Marie Fagan, Billy Salter, Jeff Ritter, Kyle Hedrick, Larry Yahia

**Others Present:** Tim Clark, Selectman; Leo Blair

**Meeting Time:** 7:05 pm

**Adjournment Time:** 9:40 pm

**Discussions and Actions**

- Chair opened meeting 7:05 pm
- Chair led discussion and Q&A; Leo provided background on development of sewer policies; and Tim shared insights into intentions of current Board of Selectmen.
- Leo noted equity issues were key in considering distribution of costs and benefits; creation of the Town Center Wastewater Policy Committee (TCWPC) was intended to help provide equity.
- Discussion of sewer capacities; Leo confirmed that “anticipated capacities” are based on current actual water use. Discussion and questions about expansion of capacity; Leo confirmed that the Special Act (passed at Town Meeting May 2009) does allow for expansion if Selectmen agree it meets a “compelling community need.” He noted that once the cost of connection is established, and the compelling community need is met, we would need a formula for charging for the connection. State law does not require reserving capacity for those who do not hook up right away, but in the Town’s Special Act, we do. There is a 20 percent reserve capacity built into the plan—it is not an operational buffer, it is intended to accommodate more hookups in future. Tim explained that operational limits are defined in terms of continuous use (e.g., 90 percent of capacity for 30 months (days?). Harvard would never reach that, because the large majority of use is from the schools, and they are closed on the weekends.
- Leo noted that intent of creation of TCWPC is to give BoS guidance on how to let new connections in; also guidance on what counts as a “change of use.”
- Leo re-confirmed TCWPC is a temporary committee; it could be re-constituted in the future.
- Tim noted TCWPC should frame the “thinking structures” of the Sewer Commission. TCWPC should recommend rate structure, betterment program, exemptions, etc. TCWPC should do the financial analysis (when project costs are closer to final, and when final) to set eventual betterment and other fees.
- Leo noted three levels costs that would trigger decisions: 1) What to do if system costs less than expected? 2) What to do if it costs more? 3) He would recommend stop loss on upside for future operations costs-- in other words, like capital repairs to the current water system, funds should come from general funds of the Town, not from the people who are one the system.
- Tim noted sewerage should have an enterprise fund, the roll the water system into it. Per Ira Grossman, every house that connects to the sewer has to connect to town water.
- Per Leo, connection revenue is not figured in—it’s a reserve account, a sinking fund for capital repairs; TCWPC should decide how it is withdrawn and what for.
- Committee members discussed relationship of sewer plan to goal of the Master Plan.

- Leo noted that the intent of the sewer is to preserve existing uses, and standards for change of use are intentionally tough to meet.
- Leo noted that Lorraine Leonard, Finance Director, will have all latest updates on projected costs—she is the procurement officer for the project.
- Committee members discussed worst-case scenarios.
- Leo’s main concern is interest rates rising, and rates ending up higher than the 2% we have budget based on access to the State’s revolving fund.
- Committee members raised concerns about cost increased owing to more ledge than expected. Tim noted they will do many borings to test, before they put the project out to bid.
- Committee members can recommend to BoS that deed restrictions related to Title V problems be eliminated once a property hooks up to the sewer.
- Need to clarify with Town Counsel (I think) whether property assessments are increased when betterments are assessed (all at the meeting thought not, but need to check).
- Need to clarify with Town Counsel whether different levels of betterment fees could be charged to different properties, perhaps based on whether or not they were in failure (most at the meeting thought not, but need to check).
- Committee members decided it will be important to communicate to “betterees” to tell them how to figure out where to tell the Town to put the “T” connection. We need to make sure we communicate to the right person for each property. Perhaps a list of approved plumbers; emailing; newsletter? That way 72 people don’t have to figure it out each on their own.
- Committee members decided to pair up for more specific assignments (pairs and assignments to be determined at next meeting).
- Next Meeting Feb 1, Fireplace Room, Old Library
- Move to adjourn at 9:40 PM.