

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Present: Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings and John F. Fairbanks
Members of the DPW, Advisory Board, Capital Planning Committee, Master Plan Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Treasurer/Collector

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being broadcast live and recorded by Ashburnham Westminster Community Access TV.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Board members reviewed and approved the following warrants:

October 8, 2013	Payroll Deduction #23D	\$154,528.47
October 15, 2013	Accounts Payable #24	\$253,828.97

SEWER DISCHARGE ALTERNATIVE AND CAPACITY ISSUES

Mr. Walker explained that the purpose of tonight’s meeting was for the DPW Director and Commissioners to make a brief presentation regarding the current status of the Town’s wastewater disposal system and address sewer capacity issues.

DPW Commissioners Lorraine Emerson and Scott Ryder and DPW Director Joshua Hall were on hand to discuss sewer discharge alternative and capacity issues.

Mr. Hall explained that the current system has 17 miles of pipe and 7 sewer pump stations with 733 connections. Of these connections 680 are residential, 6 municipal and the remainder is industrial/commercial accounts. The wastewater is conveyed to the City of Fitchburg for treatment. There are two discharge points in town. The majority of discharge is through the Whitman River pump station and Route 31 Industrial Park. The pump station cannot handle peak flows and there is a need for increase in capacity to allow more connections and new development. The other issue is rates. The Town received a significant increase in rates from the City of Fitchburg.

He reviewed the Sewer Systems which have been constructed in town from 1982 to present. Most was funded by private funding. 2007 Comprehensive Waste Management Program (CWMP) was completed identifying areas to extend sewer service.

Sewer collections charges and sewer extension bonds is 73% of the enterprise budget.

He explained there are three options for sewer capacity alternatives; 1.) Replace Whitman River Pump Station and pipe into Fitchburg. This allows for all phases of the CWMP with an

~ ~

estimated cost of \$4.5M, 2.) Upgrade Whitman River Pump Station and pipe to Fitchburg. Estimated cost is \$2.5M or 3.) In-Line Storage with an estimated cost of \$1.75M. He noted that options 1 and 2 tie Westminster permanently to Fitchburg while option 3 does not.

He also explained that there are options for sewer disposal alternatives; 1.) Local disposal treatment facility (subsurface disposal) this limits the amount of connection with a cost of \$10M to \$12M, 2.) Regional Disposal ~ Fitchburg East WW Treatment Facility (present), Fitchburg West WW Treatment Facility – built to handle paper mills, chemical treatment would have to retrofit and would still have to upgrade pipes, 3.) Neighboring communities~ possible but costly (\$10 to pipe plus cost to upgrade facility).

The Public Works Commission is recommending the following:

1. Construct In-Line Storage System
2. Continue the 50/50 funding ratio that has been past practice for sewer expansion
3. Work with the Treasurer to optimize the remaining years of the current bond with the new bond to reduce current costs.

The Public Works Commission Sewer priorities are;

1. Continue investigating In-flo and Infiltration
2. Be prepared to negotiate an improved IMA with Fitchburg
3. Continue review/updating Water and Sewer Rate Study recommendations to fund the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Commissioners would like to present this at the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for their input.

7:27 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walker moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation; further that the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating positions of the body; and that the Board adjourn directly from executive session. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Fairbanks, Clerk
(Prepared by B. Kazan)