

## Sudbury Route 20 Sewer Steering Committee

Minutes for Meeting on 11-17-2011

Flynn Building 7:30 PM

Present: Bob Haarde, Eric Poch, Joan Carlton, Steve Grande, Bill Cossart, Ted Pasquarello, Mike Coutu.

Absent: Brian McNamara, Rich Robison

Three new volunteers for the CAC were discussed: Pete Cramer, Andrew Sullivan and Jon Danielson. Motion was passed unanimous 6-0 to recommend approval to the BOB for appointment to the CAC on the condition that their applications are reviewed for blatant conflicts of interest such as being employed by an engineering firm already hired by Sudbury to work on the Sewer design.

A discussion began about the other communities in Massachusetts which have pursued sewer projects led by each member who researched a particular town and project.

Holliston – Bill Cossart:

\$65M proposal to sewer the entire town failed at town meeting due to effluent potentially discharging into zone 2 and no specific plan to address the capital cost. It was assumed that property taxes would be raised. Holliston did not create an operating cost estimate or a plan to pay for it. Holliston's septic systems are failing and their Board of Health supports a sewer system. Holliston also believes their business district would improve with a new system.

Holliston came back to town meeting again with a smaller proposal just for the business district but with no particular price attached, a blank check article, but it failed at town meeting also.

Chatham – Steve Grande

Chatham initially planned a town-wide wastewater treatment system in 1966. By 1975 they had 480 connections downtown. In 1980 they expanded it a little. In the 2000's, they agreed to follow the 1966 plan to install town-wide sewer. The downtown system is a gravity system and the route 28 system is a force main. \$51M is the cost for downtown portion and they have \$20M in grants. Town meeting has approved it under the rationale of protecting the soils, beaches, estuaries, sands and the natural beauty of Chatham which is why people live and go there in the first place. The soils are testing with high nitrates. The townwide system would cost around \$200M+. There will be a 5 mile stretch where flow cannot increase after businesses have hooked up. They do not want to increase the business sector with this system but, rather, limit it.

They expect a property tax increase of 14 cents per thousand. There will be an average user cost of \$400 per year and hookup charges of \$3K to \$10K per user. Management has been outsourced to Weston and Sampson. Summer residents, who are a significant portion of the tax base, do not have a vote at town meeting so it was relatively easy to get this measure passed but due to the need to protect the environment this did not receive much opposition.

Outstanding questions: Where does funding come from for the remaining \$30M and what is the technical design?

Hopkinton – Ted Pasquarello

Hopkinton employed a phased approach with the first phase in 1990 when they had system failure and tied into Westborough's system for 300 gallons per day. The next phase in 1995 in the lake section of town due to system failure and high nitrates. They are proposing a 100k to 200k gallons per day system to increase their commercial sector only at this time. They have EMC and they are trying to increase their commercial sector and appeal to more biotechs. They charged betterments to users to pay for the system. They are in litigations with Westboro. They do not know the operating costs off-hand. They rezoned six lots from Residential to Commercial. They increased the limit on stories to buildings to 4 stories. They expect to see some tax base increase. The project was totally financed by betterments.

Mashpee – Mike Coutu

No public sewerage yet. Developments have private systems such as Mashpee Commons. They have been studying it since the 1980s. They lost out of grant applications. They are appealing to MEP for proposals. Estimates range from \$300M to \$600M for the three options to protect nitrate levels in lakes and estuaries. They do not want commercial expansion. System would not be for the whole town, only for sensitive areas. They are involved with the MEP – Mass Estuaries Program. They expect tax increases to pay for it.

Next meeting is on 12/15/2011 at 7:30 PM at the Flynn Building.

We scheduled our January meeting for 1/12/2011 at 7:30 PM at the Flynn Building.

We scheduled a meeting of the Joint CAC and Steering Subcommittee on Cost Allocation for 12/7/2011 at 7:30 PM at the Flynn Building.

We discussed subcommittee assignments and made the following appointments:

Cost Allocation:

Joan Carlton  
Steve Grande  
Bill Cosart  
Ted Pasquarello  
Bob Haarde  
Eric Poch

Grants:

TBD

Surveys/Land Owner outreach:

Mike Coutu  
Bob Haarde

A discussion followed about whether the advent of a sewer adds any financial value to a commercial property or not with opinions on both sides of the argument being presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.