

Minutes of Meeting

Route 20 Sewer - Citizen's Advisory Committee

Wednesday May 16, 2012

CAC Attendees: John Baranowsky, Craig Blake (Chairman), Peter Cramer, Dan Kenn, Peter Abair, Jonathan Lapat, Hal Garnick

Steering Committee Attendees: Bill Cossart, Ted Pasquarello, Stephan Grande, Bob Haarde

The Route 20 CAC achieved quorum and Chairman Craig Blake called the meeting to ORDER at 7:52 PM. Route 20 Steering Committee did not achieve a quorum; therefore members participated as observers.

New Business – Two Agenda Items

1. Governance Options

Craig Blake opened by stating that governance options for the proposed sewer-district are somewhat limited; 1) create a new Town Department for this sole purpose, or 2) set up a quasi-district alternative not part of the Town of Sudbury. In either case, the entity would be empowered to raise money. Craig then opened up the forum for group discussion.

A third option was suggested; a combined sewer and water quasi-district not a part of the Town. Bill Cossart remarked that last time this concept was discussed little enthusiasm by the Sudbury Water District (SWD) was found.

Bob Haarde asked whether the Route 20 Sewer CAC could send a representative to the next scheduled SWD meeting (Tuesday, May 29) to more formally present the question of governance of the proposed Sewer District within SWD. The CAC Chairman and members present agreed to undertake this initiative.

Bill Cossart will ensure that this item is placed on the SWD May 29 Agenda.

Dan Kenn mentioned the privatization option where operations are contracted out to a Consultant such as the Town of Acton case where these services are provided by Woodard & Curren.

The benefits of governance alternatives were discussed. Bill Cossart stated that Massachusetts DEP favors quasi-district governance on the water side since allocated, unspent money cannot be diverted to Cities and Towns' General Funds for other purposes.

Should the sewer district governance be brought into the Town, it would likely be included as part of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Bill Place, P.E. is the Director of the DPW and he reports to the Town Manager. The DPW Director and the Town Manager are to be contacted in this regard.

Discussion followed as to staffing organization and qualifications of key personal.

Jono Lapat suggested that development of a business plan was required.

John Baranowsky asked why it wouldn't make sense to inquire about combined DPW governance in the neighboring Towns of Hudson and Maynard as these Towns have been successfully practicing this model for a long time.

Jono Lapat mentioned that Concord could also be contacted.

The billing issue was discussed briefly with the consensus reached that all water metered within the proposed Sewer District would be charged a wastewater disposal fee based upon the water volume consumed using the water meter (no separate meter required). Separate books would be kept for these accounts.

Bill Cossart suggested that a stronger case against the "no- build alternative" could be made at the appropriate time with the Board of Health.

John Baranowsky suggested that since SWD has in place a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, the possibility of sharing this resource should be considered. This capability will affect staffing and organization and must be considered when organizing the proposed district irrespective of the governance structure selection.

Bob Haarde suggested that various members reach out to these governances and report back at the June 13, 2012 meeting. The assignments are:

- John Baranowsky: Hudson, Maynard, Sudbury DPW and Town Manager
- Craig Blake, Jono Lapat: Sudbury Water District

Craig Blake reminded those present that ultimately after all of the various alternatives are studied and considered, that a recommendation will be made by the committee to the Town for the preferred governance structure.

Reports summarizing these inquiries are due on June 13, 2012 Route 20 Steering/CAC Joint Meeting.

2. Community Outreach

Craig Blake envisions community outreach as a two step program, 1) data gathering, and 2) information dissemination.

According to Stephan Grande, up to one-hundred contacts exist in the business community and each of these can be data-mined. Possible dissemination to this repository is via email.

Mike Coutu has developed a questionnaire survey for the business district membership. Ted Pasquarello will work with Mike Coutu on updating the questionnaire.

Outreach to those in the residential zone outside district limits will require variation of these outreach methodologies. Jono Lapat commented that sewers in North Sudbury are likely years away.

During this discussion strategic issues came up with respect to last year's failed over-ride scenario. Had the case been more strongly made by the Board of Health that failure to act to implement the Route 20 Sewer District would jeopardize the Sudbury Water District water quality supply, then more support for the project would have been forthcoming at the polls.

Next, a discussion on the timing of Zoning Bylaw changes for the proposed Route 20 Sewer District with respect to implementation of the sewer planning, design and construction took place. Opinions varied as to which of these tasks is the predecessor.

Messrs. Pasquarello and Grande were encouraged to weigh in on the matter by presenting their vision to the Planning Board.

Bob Haarde also described his understanding of this timeline. He stated that a Draft Village Business District Bylaw (VBDB) exists and he has asked the Planning Board to move forward with this bylaw. Since Town Meeting has passed, the VBDB is now one year away.

Old Business - Approval of Minutes

The April 12, 2012 Draft Minutes were discussed, edited, and discussed followed by a MOTION to APPROVE, a SECOND, and a unanimous VOTE to ACCEPT minutes as amended.

Schedule Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 13 at 7:30P.M here at 275 Old Lancaster Road.

At 8:57 PM a MOTION to ADJOURN was made, SECONDED, and VOTED unanimously as AFFIRMED.