

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Monday, June 20, 2018

Minutes

Present: K. Young, K. Allen, J. Quink, A. Joubert, R. Martin, E. Fleming, P.J. McDonald, S. Potter, M. Provencal, P. Roberts, J. Kolenda, T. Cofske

K. Young opened the meeting at 2:30pm and read the agenda into record.

Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Sewer Commissioner's to Discuss the Town of Hardwick Sewer Line & Pump Station Serving Eagle Hill School

K. Young requested an update on the meeting that took place between Eagle Hill School, Tighe & Bond Engineering and Hardwick WPCF.

A. Joubert stated that he also had attended the meeting and reference a report generated by Tighe & Bond Engineering in response to the meeting. Recommendation to pump the system (flush) was made in the report. B. Begin, Maintenance Supervisor for Eagle Hill School had dumped 5,000 gallons twice.

Tighe & Bond is willing to come in on their own dime to work on the valves and believes there was a misunderstanding of the number of times the valves would need to be adjusted. It was believed the initial recommendation was every month. Additionally, they want to take a look at the manhole covers that have been reported as "not air tight".

A. Joubert stated that the highest priority was removal of the solids and secondarily the Hons Toma and Boyse valves.

Tighe & Bond Engineering is willing to have technicians come out to clear the valves.

WWPCF Superintendent, S. Potter stated that if flushing is going to be a part of the maintenance program for this system, the Town will need to consider purchasing a pump truck. This is a costly expense to incur and would hope we would not have to do that. Further stating that the Town had not received all of the operation and maintenance manuals for this system.

P.J. McDonald stated that flushing was a part of the maintenance program for this system since the beginning. Further stating that the O&M manuals were provided to the Town.

K. Young stated that he does not recall flushing as part of the maintenance program.

K. Allen asked what the purpose of flushing the system.

K. Young asked if the purpose of flushing is to get rid of the solids that have settled.

A. Joubert agreed that is the purpose of flushing so the strings don't ball up and clogging the system.

S. Potter, informed the boards that in all the years that he has worked in the capacity of overseeing approximately fifty pump stations, he has not seen this done as a maintenance program and is an unorthodox method in allowing solids in the system. Hardwick will spend hundreds of thousands in the future to prevent water from entering into the sewer systems and it does not make sense that the town would start pumping 9,000 gallons of water into the system when water is supposed to be prevented.

K. Young stated that Tighe & Bond Engineering must identify the remedies needed to address the issues with the entire system or go forward with redesign.

R. Martin stated that they will need to figure out the costs and options and then implement a plan of action.

E. Fleming stated that Tighe & Bond has already done that and it is described in the report that they had recently done.

A. Joubert stated that most of the information is contained in the first three pages.

Discussion of the three options within the report ensued. The option that proposes solid removal did not have a cost shown for consideration.

K. Young informed Eagle Hill School that the Town needs to know three things at this point.

1. What has to be done to permanently fix the system?
2. Time-frame to fix the system?
3. Who is paying for it?

R. Martin asked if removing the solids prior to entering the wet well would solve the majority of the issues.

S. Potter responded by saying yes.

T. Cofske stated that at the site visit in September 2017, DEP determined that having no solid removal prior to entering the system was the majority of the issues.

A. Joubert felt there may be no sense in flushing the valves if that is the case.

P. J. McDonald expressed that he wants to lessen the possibility of a clog before the children return to school.

J. Quink question the cost associated with the clogs experienced.

K. Young stated the last clog cost the Town approximately \$20,000 to fix and one prior was a little less than that. Depends on location and whether contractors are needed during off hours.

J. Quink asked what the cost is to flush 9,000 gallons of water into the system.

P. J. McDonald stated that it would cost approximately \$700 plus the cost of police detail.

K. Young felt the flushing would take most of the day to complete.

P.J. McDonald presumes half a day is most likely.

J. Quink wonders if the flushing should take place first.

K. Young agrees that the flushing should occur first and then Tighe & Bond Engineering should come in the next day and work on the valves. However, expects that it will clog again.

P.J. McDonald suggested that S. Potter, A. Joubert, R. Begin discuss the sequencing.

A. Joubert agreed.

K. Young stated a discussion needs to happen regarding who is going to pay for it.

J. Kolenda asked who is responsible for the failed system and questioned whether it was Tighe & Bond Engineering who's responsible for the failed design.

T. Cofske explained the initial analogy typically done by an engineering firm when contracted to design a sewer system. The first question to answer is who is the system serving? Is it residential, is it commercial, is it a hospital, prison, boarding school, etc. The reason being to seek that answer is because you will design based on that answer and then incorporate other factors, such as topography, geotechnical, etc.

J. Quink stated that it has taken a long time to get to the bottom of this and feels that S. Potter as sewer superintendent needs to have input in the process and the solution. Tighe & Bond needs to be pushed to be out here within the next two weeks.

P. J. McDonald stated they will have Tighe & Bond come out. Further stating that Eagle Hill School is willing to step up with funds in the same manner as before and have the Town convert the funds spent into EDU credits to Eagle Hill and being good partners with the community.

A. Joubert asked if Eagle Hill School would be willing to pay for the flushing of the system and P. J. McDonald agreed they would just do it.

K. Young asked if Eagle Hill School has an action plan.

P.J. McDonald stated that they will need to memorialize the payment of solids removal.

J. Kolenda asked if the sewer regulations have any fines that the town can pursue for inappropriate things going down the line.

A. Joubert informed her that we do have periodic clogs in Gilbertville from roots that enter the lines causing blockages that have to be jetted out.

J. Kolenda asked what about habitual offenders.

A. Joubert said yes we do, if we know about it.

J. Kolenda then asked if this situation equates to that.

A. Joubert stated that it may not be what is being flushed, but the design of the system. It's a 4 inch line not a 6 or 8 inch line.

The system was designed and Tighe and Bond adjusted the valves and the valves were not put back to service.

S. Potter stated that the valve froze and had not been able to turn back on.

B. Martin inquired on whether or not the grinder pumps were working.

S. Potter explained that those pumps are not grinder pumps, they are cutter pumps and therefore do not grind into small particles. The cutter pumps simply chop not grind. The pump station design is not capable of grinder pumps.

J. Quink asked if we can require Tighe & Bond to come out on a regular basis to monitor the system to ensure the systems operation is successfully functioning.

R. Martin stated that we will need feedback from Tighe & Bond and S. Potter to be sure it is working.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved the MART, May 2018 Report.

SIGNATURES & APPROVALS

The Board of Selectmen approved the following:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Invoice #19 in the Amount of \$2,235.07 for Services Rendered to Administer the FY2016 Hardwick Assistance Program (Funded by CDBG Funding)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: J. Quink, to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: K. Allen

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.