

Department of Public Works  
Advisory Board Meeting  
October 4, 2005

*Approved*

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday September 13, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett and Jim Pyne, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Highway Manager Mike Mansir and Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty. Also present were Selectmen Executive Secretary Ted Kozak, town resident Mary Pratt and Attorney Tom Nealon (representing the Gatehouse Group) along with James Koningisor and Stephen Nolan and Brian McMillin from the Gatehouse Group.

WESTBORO SEWER BILLING

Mr. Carty advised the board that Hopkinton's portion of the estimated bill for the Westboro treatment plant is approximately \$30,000 higher than last year. He said this is higher than past years, but it is justified based on CWMP, NPDES, insurance, electricity and other mandated programs that the plant had to comply with. Mr. Carty said there should be sufficient funds in the sewer division budget to cover the increased cost.

VERIZON BONUS POINTS

Mr. Carty explained that Verizon has a program whereby after a minimum dollar amount is spent customers earn bonus points that can be exchanged for merchandise. He said at the present time Verizon has a program to use bonus point funds for donations to hurricane relief, and that he has chosen to apply our points to that effort.

## SNOW PLOW RATES

Mr. Mansir advised the board that he met last week with several other towns to discuss the increase in fuel costs and how it will impact the snowplowing operation this winter. He said several contractors have indicated that they might not be willing to plow for the town this year unless there is an increase in the plow rates. He said all the other towns are having the same problem. He presented a comparison chart that shows Hopkinton is in line with what other towns pay for outside contract plow operators and equipment. The proposed rates are an increase of approximately \$3.00 from last year. The board recommended that the proposed rates should be implemented so that the contractors can be contacted as soon as possible.

## DIRECTORS UPDATE

Mr. Gaucher explained to the board that one of the Walker lawnmowers has recently required about \$1,500 of repairs and still is not in working condition. He said that there is still a need for the mower this season, and he would like to be able to purchase a new mower now and get the money transferred back into the DPW budget in the form of a town meeting article at the May 2006 annual town meeting. The funds to be transferred would come from park and recreation user fees collected this year. The board recommended making the purchase now and submitting an article for the annual town meeting.

Mr. Gaucher told the board that the recycling effort on Pine Island Road has had some results, but there are still 2 houses that have not put out recycling. He said of 10 houses,

only 2 were not using the recycling bins that were delivered. BFI has put stickers at those locations advising the residents that their trash will not be picked up if they continue to fail to recycle.

Mr. Gaucher gave the board copies of the traffic study report that was prepared by the Maguire Group for the intersection of Rte 135 and 85. The report states that because each light phase requires additional yellow and red time in addition to the green time the approaches would be worse than the current conditions. The report recommends adding a right turn lane to Main Street westbound with minor adjustment to the light timing. The board recommended that Mr. Gaucher make a presentation before the Board of Selectmen to explain the changes, and if the board approves then the work can be done.

Mr. Gaucher asked the board for a recommendation regarding the use of town counsel for the drainage problem at 283 Hayden Rowe Street. Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board recommends to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Gaucher should be authorized to seek input from town counsel regarding the drainage problem at 283 Hayden Rowe Street. Mr. Sonnett seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote.

#### HAYDEN ROWE STREET SEWER REQUEST

The Gatehouse Group made a presentation before the board seeking a sewer connection for a 40B development they are proposing on Hayden Rowe Street. They said their plans are for affordable and market rate housing with a total of 196 units to be constructed. They said that at full build out the development would have between 25,000 and 26,000

gallons per day sewer flow. The proposal they presented calls for the sewer privilege fee to be waived for 36 of the units and a payment of \$1,523,808.00 for the remainder of the units. They said no sewer flows would be expected before the spring of 2007.

The board explained in detail the situation that currently exists regarding sewer treatment capacity and that all of our efforts to increase that capacity have not resulted in additional treatment capacity. The board advised Mr. Kozak to add the Gatehouse Group to the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> to give them an opportunity to make a full presentation to the board and the town residents.

Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board should recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the sewer request should be denied until such time as sufficient treatment capacity is available. Mr. Sonnett seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. Pyne and seconded by Mr. Sonnett. The vote to approve was unanimous.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday October 25, 2005 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss