

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
December 12, 2006

Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday December 12, 2006 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Dan McIntyre 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 was town resident David Beattie. Richard Jubinville from Earth Tech and Attorney Douglas Resnick along with representatives from Erickson Development also attended.

STAGECOACH HEIGHTS – WOOD STREET

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that he and Mr. Beattie have met with a representative from Fafard at the construction site. The area inspected was near the septic system and storm water run off was observed flowing over the curb and on to the roadway several feet from the catch basin. Mr. Beattie said that he viewed the area again on December 1, 2006 and hay bales had been moved to divert storm water into the catch basin, but the flow was still missing the basin. He viewed the area again this morning and found the catch basins in the development covered with leaves. Both Mr. Beattie and Mr. Gaucher stated that at previous meetings with Fafard the developer had agreed to check the basins to ensure they were not covered with leaves. Mr. Gaucher said that if an additional catch basin was installed and a cold patch berm established the water could be diverted into the drainage system. Mr. Gaucher said he thought the town should notify Fafard in writing that those measures should be taken.

ERICKSON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Resnick introduced the various representatives from Erickson Development regarding their proposed building project on Lumber Street. Mr. Resnick stated the primary reason for them attending the meeting was to discuss the availability of water for their project. He said at full build out, which could take up to 7 years, the water requirement could be as much as 200,000 – 250,000 gallons per day. Mr. Resnick also explained that Earth Tech has been contacted and had provided some basic information regarding the Hopkinton water system. Based on those discussions, Erickson decided to investigate other sources of water in case the town could not meet their requirements. Milford Water Company has been contacted to discuss the option of developing a combined “water district” separate from the town. Mr. Resnick stated that during those discussions Milford Water Company suggested asking Hopkinton for a letter supporting the effort.

Mr. Sonnett advised the group that Hopkinton has a sufficient supply of water to meet their needs; the problem is that the town is already very close to the limit established by the Water Withdrawal Permit. He explained that Erickson would need to apply to the Water Department for service, and then the town could negotiate with DEP for an increase in the limit on our withdrawal permit. Mr. Resnick said that would be fine, except that initial quantity of water needs to be confirmed and timing is critical for Erickson to move forward with their detailed engineering plans. There was some discussion regarding how much water is available for pumping if the withdrawal permit was increased to allow for it to be used. The board recommended to Mr. Jubinville that

Earth Tech should work with Erickson on behalf of the town, at Erickson's expense, to assist if asked.

There was discussion of sewer treatment options, as water withdrawal and sewer recharge are related. Mr. Sonnett suggested that Erickson should investigate sewer treatment as part of their water investigation. Based on past experience of the town, Erickson might encounter an inter-basin transfer conflict if water is withdrawn from a "water district" and not recharged into the basin it was withdrawn from.

The board advised Erickson that the town is willing to work with them, and if a plan for water and sewer could be developed that would benefit both parties that would be even better.

Motion: Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board should recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a letter authorizing Erickson to discuss water options with Milford Water Company should be drafted, provided that the Water Division Manager from Hopkinton and Earth Tech shall be included in all discussions, and that the priority of said discussions shall be to assist Hopkinton in increasing the limit of our water withdrawal permit. Mr. McIntyre seconded the motion. The vote was: Sonnett – yes, Pyne – yes, McIntyre – yes.

HAYDEN ROWE STREET DRAINAGE PROBLEM

Mr. Gaucher said that the drain at Brock's property has not been cleaned based on advice from town counsel. He explained that town counsel provided an 8 page report regarding the rights the town has to enter Mr. Brock's property. Based on case law, the homeowner has the right to sue the town for reduction in property value if storm water is deposited on

private property. Town counsel recommended that the town should take the required steps to obtain an easement for drainage across Mr. Brock's property, and that the improved drainage should meet the requirements that Mr. Brock has requested. Mr. Gaucher said town counsel is drafting a letter, which will be sent to Mr. Brock's attorney, advising of the town's intent to secure the proper easement and install drainage per Mr. Brock's request; and requesting permission from Mr. Brock to enter his property in the interim to clean the drain so as to avoid a serious public safety condition during the winter. The letter should be ready before the end of this week.

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that he has met with the Cemetery Commission regarding expansion of the Mount Auburn Cemetery, including the new drainage system to be installed. An on site inspection was conducted by Mr. Gaucher, Mr. Chesmore from the Cemetery Commission and DPW employees primarily responsible for cemeteries. The grass area west of the current cemetery garage was found to be suitable for immediate expansion while the new drainage system is being installed in the lower portion of the property. In the future, other areas of the property might be able to be made suitable if brush cutting and landscaping was done to prepare the areas for burial sites.

BUDGETS

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the FY08 budget worksheets have been received from the Accounting Department. He said that a draft budget will be ready for the board to review at the next meeting. Some items that will have to be considered for FY08 that

have not been in previous budgets include, but may not be limited to, storm water outfall mapping, street sweeping disposal, Lake Maspenock Dam maintenance, etc.

ABBOTT FARM WASTEWATER DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Mr. Jubinville advised the board that Earth Tech has received a letter from Norfolk RAM Group regarding the former Abbott Farm on Ash Street. In part, the letter states that the charitable trust that owns the property is pursuing development of a 120 unit senior housing development, and further states that Abbott Farm currently holds a valid 26,400 gallon per day Groundwater Discharge Permit for an approved 240 bedroom condo development that was never built.

Abbott Realty Trust is interested in meeting with Earth Tech and town officials to discuss options for providing connection for Abbott Farm and approximately 20 vacant lots off Blueberry Lane to the municipal sewer system instead of building a sewer treatment plant on site. Money saved by not building a treatment plant could be transferred to the town to help off set the cost of the proposed treatment plant at Fruit Street.

The board recommended to Mr. Jubinville that since the letter was addressed to Earth Tech, he should forward it to the Board of Selectmen for review/discussion.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that 32 proposals have been received for the pre-qualification of contractors and sub contractors for the Waste Water Treatment Facility.

Mr. Gaucher said that he and Mr. Carty will be going to Earth Tech offices later this morning to open and review the documents.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that engineers from Gannett Fleming who were working on a design for a new DPW facility are no longer with the company and new engineers have been assigned to the project and are developing updated cost estimates. He said the project is on the Capital Improvement schedule for FY09 and he would like to see the project start to proceed. There was discussion regarding locations for a new DPW facility other than the proposed site at Fruit Street. No action was taken and the matter will need further discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Gaucher reported that the inspection report on town owned dams is due this Friday. He said the report for Bloods Pond will be submitted before the end of the week. The Lake Maspenock Dam is not owned by the town yet so it is not included in the report, and the Whitehall Dam is owned by the state and not the town.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the DPW Director in Ashland has contacted him to make us aware that Ashland is investigating the possibility of a water connection with the MWRA and asked if Hopkinton has any interest in joining the discussions. If an agreement is reached with the MWRA it might possibly allow modification of our agreement with Ashland. The board recommended to Mr. Gaucher that he should obtain more information regarding what benefits Hopkinton could derive.

MINUTES

Mr. Pyne made a motion that the minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting should be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. McIntyre and was approved by a unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday January 9, 2007 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss, Administrative Manager DPW