

Town of Hopkinton
Department of Public Works
Public Works Board Meeting
September 12, 2007

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Wednesday September 12, 2007 at 7:30 AM. Present were Public Works Board Members Dan McIntyre, Jim Pyne and Kevin Kohrt, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Water & Sewer Manager, Eric Carty, Highway Manager, Mike Mansir, Administrative Assistant, Melissa Paquette, Facilities Manager, Brian Main, Kenny Weismantle, town residents Mary Pratt, Muriel Kramer, Nancy Peters, Mr. Knowles and Jane Moran. Also in attendance Steve Zieff of Boulder Capital, Paul Siros of Tata & Howard & Rob Nagi of Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin.

UPDATES

Mr. Gaucher updated the board on the two houses on Wood Street that need water service from Westboro. Town Council reviewed the forms and they are all set to sign. The Board members will sign the forms at the Board of Health after the meeting.

Mr. Pyne updated the board on his conversation with the Conservation Commission in regards to Mr. Brocks property on Hayden Row stating that there is no way a pipe can go through the wetlands on the back of his property. Mr. Pyne will inform Mr. Brock of the Conservation Commissions advice.

Mike Mansir updated the board on highway truck S24 that was denied for replacement. The Highway Department will have to invest money into this truck in order to have it pass inspection and to have it get through the winter months. Mr. Gaucher estimates that thousands of dollars will have to be spent to have it in running condition for the winter.

BOULDER CAPITAL

Steve Zieff of Boulder Capital along with their water/sewer consultant, Paul Siros of Tata & Howard and their traffic Engineer, Rob Nagi of Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin came before the board to update them on the specifics on how this project will impact the Department of Public Works. Mr. Nagi informed the board of the Traffic Impact Study that was reviewed by Elaine Lazarus of the Planning Board along with Fay Spofford & Thorndike. Traffic counts will be conducted during the morning and evening hours the week of September 10th, 2007 and also some done on Saturday. Twenty-five through twenty-eight intersections are being studied in the scope of these traffic studies. Once data is collected it will be shared with the DPW Board, Mrs. Lazarus & FST. Bike and pedestrian traffic will be considered into this equation. A Neighborhood Advisory Board was created for all residents that have concerns, comments or suggestions about the impact this project will have on Hopkinton or surrounding towns and will be meeting at the end of September. Mr. McIntyre would like to be contacted by the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Mr. Siros informed the board of the 7 monitoring wells that were dug on the Weston Nursery site for ground water modeling. Wetlands paperwork has been filed. Mr. Kohrt inquired if septic systems would be used on the site and Mr. Zieff explained that even though the soil was good on site and could handle septic systems they

do not think they would be using them. Mr. McIntyre suggested to Mr. Weissmantle that the Planning Board & the DPW Board should meet to discuss this project. Mr. McIntyre wanted to know if Boulder Capital had anyone on their team that could look into the impact that this project would have on the town service. Mr. Zieff explained that the fiscal information that they provided did include expansion on school, police & fire personnel and road maintenance and would give a fairly accurate indication on the towns requirements. The Board would like updates from Boulder Capital on progress monthly.

I/I MITIGATION POLICY

The Board is trying to take a proactive approach to the removable inflow and infiltration (I/I) and to make repairs before the situation gets too out of hand. Earth Tech provided other towns I/I policies for the Boards review. Mr. Kohrt suggested that Mr. McIntyre consider stepping down off of the board for the duration of the discussion due to his work at the Hopkinton Square and their possible request for additional water/sewer capacity. Mr. McIntyre did not feel that there is a conflict of interest for him since the discussion isn't specifically about Hopkinton Square. Mr. Pyne agreed. Mr. Gaucher is waiting for information about a program that was initiated in another town for replacing all old toilets with new water reducing ones. Mr. Carty informed the board that the Water Dept. gives out water saver kits that helps reduce flow on shower & faucets, uses less water per flush and detects toilet tank leaks. Mr. Kohrt presented a spreadsheet using the figures that Earth Tech represented in their Sewer System Evaluation Survey. The other two board members and the Director did not get an opportunity to review the spreadsheet analysis. Mr. Kohrt feels that \$1/gpd (gallon per day) estimated cost of mitigation which Earth

Techs provided at the last meeting did not accurately reflect the full cost of the program as it ignored the cost of reporting and analysis by a firm such as Earth Tech. When including the cost of the \$190,000 Earth Tech I/I report in addition to the cost of repairing 100% of the system, then averaging over the annualized savings, the true cost is closer to \$7.50/gpd; more if a follow up report is needed to verify the work. Mr. Kohrt suggested that \$10/gallon would be a good starting point. Mr. McIntyre explained that the town would be responsible to fix all I/I areas in the right of way and homeowners would be responsible for connections from the street into their house. Mr. Pyne inquired if there was a way to force the homeowners to fix the problem. Mr. Carty explained that there is a clause in the water regulations about having a certain amount of days to fix a water leak on their property or their water service would be shut off. Mr. Gaucher suggested wording be put into the sewer regulations for the same situation of a sewer leak. Mr. Kohrt observed that if leaks between the road and a residence are not the responsibility of the DPW, then Earth Tech's assumption that only 50% of the reported leaks could be addressed may be reasonable. Mr. Kohrt divided the annualized savings in half and determined that the cost per gpd saved for repair was at least \$2.03, and the cost per gpd to pay for both the current report and repair of the system would be closer to \$15/gpd. Mr. McIntyre wants to make a policy that's fair to everyone affected by it and that the town does not want to create any revenue but enough to fix the I/I. The Town is inviting businesses to the town and all the Boards should work with them on this problem now and in the future.

Mr. Kohrt made a motion for \$4/1gpd and to take that money and work on solving the problem. Mr. McIntyre doesn't think we have that much I/I to warrant a 4:1 ratio of I/I

repair to proposed capacity. Mr. Kohrt insisted on incorporating all costs into that figure not just the I/I but also financing of studies. No second motion was made. Mr. McIntyre moved to charge \$2.03:1 gpd per Earth Tech's calculations. No second motion was made. Mr. Pyne does not want this situation to discourage new businesses or residents from coming to Hopkinton. Mr. Pyne pointed out that I/I is a system-wide problem and that all users should share in the reporting and repair costs as part of regular system maintenance. Mr. Kohrt pointed to the many examples provided by Earth Tech showing policies from other towns which require at least 3 gpd of I/I to be removed for each gpd of proposed sewage added to they system. Mr. Carty thinks that the I/I problem needs to be taken care of before more people connect the public water/sewer. Mr. Pyne moved to charge \$2.25/1 gpd; Mr. McIntyre seconded the motion; The vote was 2 to 1 with Mr. Kohrt opposed.

FRUIT STREET OPEN MEETING BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mr. Gaucher informed the Board of the open meeting for the stake holders of Fruit Street property on being held on September 25, 2007 at the Board of Selectman's meeting. Mr. McIntyre would like a meeting posted for the Advisory Board for Sept. 25 at 7pm so that the board can go to this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday September 26, 2007 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Paquette, DPW Administrative Assistant