Board of Sewer Commissioners
Minutes of August 7, 2012
Bourne Community Building
Bourne, MA 02532

TA Guerino

Earl Baldwin, Chairman
Peter Meier, Vice Chairman
John Ford, Clerk
Don Pickard
Linda Zuern

Guests: Sally Riggs

Members of the Press: Diana Barth, Bourne Enterprise and Paul Gately, Bourne Courier

List of documents
- None

Note this meeting is being televised and recorded. If anyone in the audience is recording or video-taping, they need to acknowledge such at this time

Meeting called to order
6:00 pm by Chm. Baldwin

Re-organization process
Chairman appointment
Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Zuern to nominate Don Pickard for Chairman of the BOSC.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Ford to close nominations for the BOSC Chairman. VOTE 5-0.

Chairman nomination of Don Pickard for the BOSC vote: VOTE 5-0.

Vice Chairman appointment
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Ford to nominate Linda Zuern for Vice Chairman of the BOSC. VOTE 5-0.

Clerk appointment
Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Pickard to nominate Peter Meier as Clerk of the BOSC.
VOTE 5-0.

Approval of minutes – 5/29/12
Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Meier to approve minutes of 5/29/12 as submitted. VOTE 5-0.
Chm. Pickard requested TA Guerino to put BOSC minutes onto the website.

Sewer Inspector George Tribou to give update on sewer system
TA Guerino asked the board to consider looking at Item #9 for questions relative to the operations as it goes with the rates.

Mr. Tribou personally rates the sewer system as fair-to-poor. A lot of equipment has been changed and money spent (changed vents, air discharges, ventilation systems in main station for example).

The biggest issue is the grinder pumps where proper discharge numbers are failing and the only way to replace is to dig them up. Wet wells are $400 a piece (a total of 200 pumps), not including installation.

The other issue is the cleaning and caring of the mains. Visual inspections have been done and have cleaned about 800 feet of the mains over the last 10 years. This is another expense as pump controls are 21 years old. Two (2) pumps at Main Street need to be replaced with some controllers. The price tag is about $80,000, to which TA Guerino added this expense will be fully funded by the Commonwealth with the Bridge Replacement Program grant.

Mr. Tribou says the Wareham facts are less than he would like to see and not precise. TA Guerino said Mr. Tribou and Mike Leitzel went to Wareham to get new capital numbers and were to there were none. Until the newspaper article came out in July, $400,000 and $150,000 expenditures have been approved at Wareham's town meeting. Mr. Tribou said Wareham told him there would be no capital expenditures. Bourne is lacking numbers and didn't budget capital for Wareham.

The IMA provides that Wareham would notify Bourne of future capital expenditures to affect their 17.9%. Bourne doesn't have a "seat at the table" per se, but is welcome to their meetings. In the past there has been good and open set of communications. This has not been the case with Wareham Town Manager Mr. Andrews and the Interim Fiscal Officer. TA Guerino has two calls put in to Wareham and expects to hear back.

Bourne has paid Weston and Sampson to audit Wareham by reviewing billing and formulas within the spreadsheet. Last year Mike Leitzel performed "beta" tests and numbers proved to be correct. Mr. Tribou agreed, but the numbers put in a certain area is what he doesn't like. He added that Wareham hasn't closed their books at this point and it is very tough for Bourne to get precise numbers. Wareham meets as a BOSC/BOS in one meeting, not separate. Contact information is under the Chief Plan Operator.

Question rasied about capital costs. Any improvements Cohasset Narrows, Depot Street, etc to treatment plan directly affects Bourne sewer will continue to get charged 17.9%. This is Bourne's own internal system.

Mr. Tribou discussed with TA Guerino and recommends using Engineering money in the budget to hire Weston & Sampson for a quick critical needs review for the system itself and to go to capital to rectify. TA Guerino added this would also include a camera viewing of the system this year which would cost about $9,000 and is in the budget.

Mr. Tribou explained old pump parts are not available for the old system. New pumps require a vent where the old ones didn't. Bourne is responsible for all the grinder pumps (from house to street), and all wires from the pump to the house. Gravity feed cannot be done at Taylor's Point.

Zuern – asked for clarification of the $400 per unit price tag. Mr. Tribou said the cost to replace depends on the depth of each. He gave a number of approximately $1,400 for some pumps that require "confined space" (which includes three people to do the work). Zuern asked if Bourne can change the complete unit. Mr. Tribou said the units are sitting in concrete and cannot be change outside, just the one fitting and have all copper parts.

Ford – asked for clarification of budget line items. TA Guerino will provide budgeted amounts for FY12, actual amount for FY12 and an estimate amount for FY13 for better clarification.

Ford – Bourne is anticipating building up reserves with new businesses and is currently utilizing 55% of this. Bourne will use closer to 90% with said businesses and would have a lot more money for capital reserves stabilization.

Zuern – commented on having $200,000 less for next year with regard to water overage fees.
TA Guerino said the numbers are estimates and if more goes through, the more revenue and fees could go down or go towards retained earnings for capital expenditures.

Ford – commented on how reserve funds are not shown every year. TA Guerio explained Bourne always had a reserve fund, but didn't spend any out of from those years.

Neil Langille to speak relative to sewer charges

1. It is not equitable for seasonal people to pay full price;

2. Taylor's Point Marina should pay more than two connections as should some other municipal buildings (Police, Fire and Town Hall for example); and

3. Issue with residential water is for watering lawns, gardening is going back into sewer. He recommends Taylor's Point people given a break on their fee and any any monies coming in from the State to pay for boat discharges.

TA Guerino – Bourne receives grant money relative to pump out boat activities and the purchase of pump out boats. Monies are rolled over and help to pay for staffing to some degree and the upkeep for pump out activities, which is close to a wash. The State mandates the pump out system and Bourne has a responsibility for its own waterways and beaches.

Ford - referred to BOSC minutes of 12/13/11 where pump outs were discussed. The marina has its own hook up and pays its own fee. The argument is that seasonal people should have a break with the year round people to pay the difference. The numbers were done with TA Guerino and when more businesses come "on line", the town will have more money to put into the capital (assisted living for example).

TA Guerino – explained the difference between water overage is different from sewer overage. Sewer overage is at 45,000 gallons and water overage is about 15,000 gallons less approximately before charges start. Relative to the municipals, they pay like a homeowner and pay overages pay the same rate in the municipality "district". Issue of water overage is a choice (lawn watering). Installation of outflow meters are expensive, not accurate and don't make sense to do. With regard to seasonal, capital cost were set in the 1980s. The options were: 1) by usage and fixed fee; or 2) go with a fixed fee to cover cost with an overage. The town chose to go with a fixed fee and add the overage in 1989.

Chm. Pickard – the issue is wastewater, and agrees the BOSC needs to meet monthly.

Mr. Langille offered his assistance to the board. $20,000 grant TA Guerino will talk with Ms. Marzelli with regard to a $20,000 grant.

Ford – added the more you reduce rates, the more someone else has to pay.

Meier – requested to put audit on Wareham at a future meeting. TA Guerino suggested to wait until hear hears back from the calls he put into Wareham.

TA Guerino recommends the rates remain the same, which have not changed for three years.

Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin to approve to keep the rates the same for $734/connection. VOTE 4-1 (opposition from Meier).

Sewer Advisory Subcommittee Update – Sally Riggs – discussion and possible vote on recommendations

Ms. Riggs, Chm. of the subcommittee Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC) introduced the committee members and the Cape Cod Commission RESET team. Tonight's discussion is a follow up to meeting on 7/10/12. Report and recommendations submitted and were asked to come back with information on costs as the next step.

Project is to involve a public/private relationship – town responsible from pipes to subservice disposal field and area itself. Recommend the subsurface be underneath Queen Sewell and reserve behind the community center.

Town could engage a contract worker or p/t employee as a point of contact to move process along. This is projected to cost the town $225,000 over a period of two years. Ms. Riggs said she has been in touch with the State to help cover the costs.

She explained Column B – 50 hours/month for 2 years that they are confident in the numbers; Column A – additional expertise - $165,000 could be less if a contractor or employee has experience.

No further comments from the WAC.

Michele Ford – Chm. of Finance Committee, personally recommends to begin exploring as the costs will increase; it is the beginning to own vs. regulated. She is in favor of decision to allow committee to begin the next step of exploration.

Mary Jane Mastrangelo – Capital Outlay, said Bourne needs to identify work for the wastewater treatment and for subsurface disposal.

Zuern – asked about transmission costs. Ms. Riggs said the expansion is for 100,000 gallons; the total capital cost is about $8.5M (shared by the town and developer). $2.5M on town side, with over $5M on the developer side. Zuern asked if anyone was interested in a public/private partnership. Mrs. Riggs said there is and developer is very interested but at this time it is not appropriate to discuss further. Ms. Zuern is personally not ready to go forward as she would like to work some questions out prior to moving forward.

Ms. Riggs - asking for board endorsement of the concept to move forward.

Zuern – asked the size of the treatment plant size. It would take up ¼ - ½ acres with multiple buildings. The major building is 40‘ x 60-70’; the smaller buildings would be enclosed with entrance and parking areas are architecturally designed to fit the community. They will be odor controlled, 1½ stories tall with one the smaller buildings will be 2 stories tall.

Ford – asked how close the treatment buildings will be. ¼ - ½ acre. Ms. Riggs suggested a site visit for buildings used in other towns.

Ford – asked about what would be done with the build-up of raw sewage. It was explained that the facilities are required to have back-up generators which are separately fueled to come on-line if the facility went down.

TA Guerino – it would be a closed system with transmission areas that are underground leaching systems.

Chm. Pickard – feels the WAC is asking for endorsement of concept but also asking for endorsement for funds. Ms. Riggs said this is not so. The concept gives the ability to continue work. How the town would like to move forward are questions to be dealt with later.

Chm. Pickard – asked where the $225,000 would come from if board endorse concept and does it require Fall Town Meeting approval.

Ms. Ford (FinCom) – would like to see WAC authorization to continue research and come back with recommendations.

Ms. Mastrangelo (Capital Outlay) – would like the WAC come before the Capital Outlay Committee for further consideration and Capital Outlay recommendation.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin that the BOSC endorse the WAC concept plan action items and to instruct commitment with Capital Outlay is the first visit.

Motion Discussion
Zuern – not in favor of endorsing the action items as a whole.

Baldwin – will endorse the principal and feels he and Zuern can participate and report back to the board.

Ford – concurs with Zuern.

Meier – withdraws his original motion.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin to endorse the WAC concept as brought forward and charge the WAC to look at the action items and to come back to BOSC with recommendations for expenditures in pieces.

Mr. Mulvey – feels the board doesn't have enough information to endorse a concept and believes it is too broad; if endorse the concept, you are endorsing the concept of 2 sewer treatment and disposals. He recommends putting money into what exists now for updating the town needs to serve downtown area now.

Zuern – concurs with Mr. Mulvey and suggests the board amend the motion to reflect acceptance of the concept going forward and to continue research, but not to endorse the concept itself.

Stanley Andrews – the concept discussion is for downtown district only and not to go over Queen Sewell Park. The WAC cannot move forward until the board endorses the concept. He agrees the BOSC to meet more frequently.

Chm. Pickard – asked about Action Item #7. Ms. Riggs said it refers to the fact that there was some consideration of a town treatment facility on a town-owned parcel and a vote to reserve a certain number of acres if everything in town fails. Bourne Development Campus is a totally different project.

Ms. Riggs – the WAC is not asking for a concept to build facility, but rather the concept of moving forward, steps taken to get the answers to the questions the board is looking.

Mr. Mulvey and Mr. McVee – are opposed to this concept.

Zuern – partnership meant to assist in getting land and tonight share a cost was discussed.

Ms. Riggs – going back to why the town is doing this; to benefit the town and the town residents with limited growth capacity.

TA Guerino – added as part of the board goals is to control the town's own destiny as it relates to control.

Mr. Mulvey – looking to re-sewer an area already sewered.

Chm. Pickard – we need to continue to be vigilant.

Vote on motion on the floor:
VOTE 5-0. Unanimous.

Update of Wastewater Advisory Subcommittee make-up
Subcommittee make up to include 1 to 2 financial experience members, 3 members-at-large and an exoficio member from the Water Protection Collaborative. Chm. Pickard asked if it made sense to expand committee to include other villages. TA Guerino said not at this time but may need another separate committee to include other villages.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin to approve the updated charge as presented by the WAC submitted on 8/7/12 as amended. VOTE 5-0.

Wastewater Advisory Subcommittee appointment renewals
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Baldwin to appoint: Stanley Andrews, Mary (GET appointments and titles FROM PETER) for terms to expire 6/30/14. VOTE 5-0. TA requested newly appointed WAC subcommittee members to come into Town Hall to pick up appointments and to be sworn in by Town Clerk.

Adjournment
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Ford to adjourn meeting and go into BOS regular session meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Groezinger, sec.