



Board of Selectmen **Workshop Meeting Minutes** **September 17, 2019**

The regular meeting was called to order at approximately 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Hearing Room by Chairman Stone. Selectmen present: Tracy Post, Norm Holcomb, Erik Tolley, and Mark Forest. Also attending: Yarmouth Town Administrator, Dan Knapik; and Yarmouth Interim Assistant Town Administrator, Rich Bienvenue.

1. Wastewater Workshop

Rich Bienvenue, Interim Assistant Town Administrator, provided the Board of Selectmen with an update on Yarmouth's wastewater planning efforts. He explained that the Water Resources Advisory Committee has been working for the past year to develop solutions for Yarmouth's nitrogen problem. It was explained that 85% of the nitrogen pollution in Yarmouth comes from nitrogen entering groundwater from Title 5 septic systems. Because of this fact, it has been determined that the most effective and cost-efficient way for the Town to tackle this issue is through a centralized wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Bienvenue explained that the nitrogen issues not only have negative environmental impacts on Yarmouth, but it has negative effects on Yarmouth's economic development efforts as well.

An 8-phase plan has been developed for Yarmouth's sewer phasing plan, with phase 1 focused mostly on areas along Route 28. This will allow the Town to address nitrogen concerns in all three Yarmouth watersheds that have immediate nitrogen concerns, as well as establish a system spine for future phases.

Dave Young, CDM Smith, provided an update on the DHY Clean Waters Community Partnership. He explained that there has been a DHY website developed which provides an overview of the partnership and also displays the DHY-subgroup's meeting minutes and materials. Mr. Young explained that the Special Legislation enabling the tri-town partnership has been approved by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and now must be approved by the Senate and Governor. Once the Special Legislation has been approved, the three participating towns (Dennis, Harwich, and Yarmouth) will decide whether to opt-in to the DHY Partnership by Town Meeting vote in the spring.

Dave Young also reviewed the cost analysis of the DHY Partnership, and explained the differences to Yarmouth if they pursue this option as opposed to pursuing a Yarmouth-only wastewater solution. It was explained that Yarmouth will only save \$6 million on the capital construction side, but the larger benefit would be \$4 million in annual savings in operating costs (on an average basis). Furthermore it was explained that by pursuing a regional solution such as DHY, Yarmouth would be much better positioned to receive money from the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, which awards 0% interest loans on a competitive basis and gives preference to regional approaches. Mr. Young also reviewed the proposed governance of DHY, and explained that there is a proposed seven member commission which would consist of three members from Yarmouth (appointed by Selectmen).

Rich Bienvenue reviewed cost estimates for Phase 1 of the sewer plan and also described the Town's cost recovery options. It was explained that Phase 1 will cost about \$112 million for a treatment plant, collection system, and recharge facilities. With a zero interest loan amortized over

30 years, this will amount to a \$3.73 million annual debt service. Town staff has examined ways to fund these costs without impacting the general tax rate. Mr. Bienvenue identified various revenue streams that could be used to fund this project without impacting residents' property taxes. Options for these funding sources include:

- Grant opportunities
- Municipal Water Infrastructure Investment Fund
 - Could be offset by a corresponding reduction in the CPA surcharge
- Cape and Islands Water Protection Trust
- Flow-based betterment program
- 25% capital surcharge on operating rates
- Dedicated short-term rental bill revenues
- Other local revenues such as solar receipts or savings
- Debt drop-off

Mr. Bienvenue explained that, by utilizing these revenue streams, it is possible for Yarmouth to fund the wastewater project without affecting the tax rate.

Selectmen thanked Mr. Bienvenue and Mr. Young for their detailed presentation and also thanked the Water Resources Advisory Committee for all their work on this issue. Selectman Forest asked if it was reasonable to expect a proposed DHY Agreement by December 1, 2019 so that the three towns can place the agreement on their upcoming Town Meeting Warrants for approval by the residents. Mr. Young responded that he does expect the proposed DHY Agreement to be completed by December 1st. Mr. Forest also inquired about the status of the water quality in Yarmouth's ponds. Mr. Young responded that the one Yarmouth pond that is of concern would be Long Pond. The Selectmen also expressed concern about using the Bass River Golf Course as an effluent recharge site as it would have to be shut down for a year while the recharge facilities are installed.

- **Route 28 Proposed District Improvement Financing Project**

Lou Nickinello, Bass River Sports World, presented his proposal for a District Improvement Financing (DIF) project. He explained that he was recently invited to a Town of Yarmouth Opportunity Zone workshop where he presented this idea to a group of stakeholders who were receptive to it. He explained that this DIF would enable another revenue stream that could be used to fund wastewater infrastructure along Route 28 in South Yarmouth. Mr. Nickinello explained that he was requesting approval from the Board of Selectmen to place a DIF article on the upcoming Town Meeting Warrant, which would enable the creation of a DIF District (from Long Pond to Parker's River). If this district was approved, Mr. Nickinello emphasized that this wouldn't approve any wastewater plans or commit any funding, but rather would allow him to visit with his commercial owner neighbors and collect data on what improvements would be made to their properties (and the resulting increase in tax assessments) if wastewater infrastructure was present. Mr. Nickinello explained that it was his hope that this article would help start the wastewater conversation in Yarmouth and help gather valuable data for the overall project. After data/development agreements are gathered, another article could be presented at the spring 2020 Town Meeting for approval of the development/financing plan.

Selectman Post asked how this DIF proposal would impact the Town's overall wastewater management plan. Rich Bienvenue responded that this proposal does not differ greatly from the Town's current Phase 1 plan, which is similarly financed in part by new growth and betterments.

MOTION: To place a DIF article on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion by: Tracy Post

Seconded by: Mark Forest

Yea 5 Nay 0

2. Vote on Town Election Date

Phil Gaudet, Town Clerk, presented two possible dates for the upcoming Town Election on the proposed DPW facility: Tuesday, November 5th and Friday, November 15th. He suggested having the election on November 5th.

MOTION: To hold the upcoming Special Town Election on November 5th, 2019.

Motion by: Tracy Post

Seconded by: Erik Tolley

Yea 4 Nay 0

(Mark Forest was not present during voting)

3. November Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

Mr. Knapik explained that the Board of Selectmen needed to decide on meeting dates for November and recommended meeting at least two times during the month. The Selectmen decided to have meetings on November 14th and November 19th.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: To move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Erik Tolley

Seconded by: Tracy Post

Yea 5 Nay 0

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Dennehy

DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL AGENDA PACKET

- Yarmouth Wastewater Planning Efforts
- Yarmouth District Improvement Financing
- 2019 STM Article Spreadsheet
- 2019 BOS Upcoming Agenda Items Schedule