

MINUTES
SEWER IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
July 5, 2017

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Sewer Implementation Committee opened at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Jerry Patria, Chairman	Present
Randy Brown, Vice Chairman	Present
Brian Pranka	Present
Freda Brown	Present
Art Pinell	Present

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Mr. Pinell made a motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2017. Mr. Pranka seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pranka made a motion to accept the minutes of April 25, 2017. Mr. Pinell seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Patria opened the meeting by questioning how the SIC can proceed and what can be accomplished. The SIC had attempted to extend the public sewers throughout various areas of Town, but met with opposition each time a proposal was presented. Each of the members received a notice of reappointment as a member of the Sewer Implementation Committee. Mr. Pranka was of the opinion that going forward after constant rejection of proposals may not be in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Pinell stated that most projects of that magnitude do not succeed at first. However, success only comes from continually trying. Mr. Patria stated that the largest problem with expanding the public sewers is the cost to individuals and or taxpayers. There is limited interest from residents. If a sewer expansion is funded through the Town, all taxpayers would be responsible for the cost, but most will not reap any benefit. There is also the question of how long the Town would have to support an expansion before connections start to pay back the initial investment. In accordance with Title 5, residents are no longer mandated to connect to a public sewer line unless of specific failure criteria. In essence, the Town would only be reimbursed if and or when a resident connects. There is also the issue of funding. Once

the Town of Southwick reaches 10,000 residents in accordance with the census, funding options will be limited. Mr. Brown is still attempting to solicitate State and or Federal funding for sewer projects including the Congamond Road renovation. There is a time restraint on being approved for the project due to the Mass DOT reconstruction project.

Mr. Pranka stated that the American Inn does have septic system issues, but is looking into installing an in ground pressure dosing system. They allegedly have made attempts to work with Westfield to be allowed to tie into their system, but have not met with success. Rosewood and Wynnfield have functioning systems, but are always susceptible to failure. The problem with initiating plans is that failures are time sensitive.

There is potential for a connection at the north end of Hudson Drive. If the industrial park has public sewers, it may generate more businesses to relocate to Southwick. But, will depend on an interested party developing the land to accommodate businesses.

Mr. Patria stated that all input of the members is an important part of the working government of Southwick. Each of the SIC members is a valuable asset to the Town and provide information to the Select Board members acting as Sewer Commissioners that they would not otherwise be informed of. All of the current SIC members did sign their reappointment documents.

Mr. Pinell made a motion to send a survey to the residents of the Woodside Circle neighborhood. The data from the survey will be collected to determine if the property owners have any interest in public sewers. Mr. Brown stated that it would be a low cost to connect a sewer line from Longyard Road to Point Grove Road. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Pranka seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:

Selectmen
Town Clerk

Jerry Patria, Chairman

Randy Brown, Vice Chairman

Brian Pranka

Art Pinell

Freda Brown

Date