



**Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Community Room, Scituate Public Library
Thursday, October 11, 2018
7:00 pm**

Committee Members Present: Lincoln Heineman, Chairperson; Anthony Antoniello; Mike Westort; Sean deLacy; Elise Russo; Patrice Metro

Committee Members Absent: Jerry Kelly, Vice Chair; Jamie Gilmore; Geoff Burns

Also in Attendance: Nancy Holt, Director of Finance; Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator; Sean Anderson; Kevin Cafferty; Joe DiVito; Lisa Scanlon; Lisa Bertola

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Lincoln Heineman

Lincoln Heineman made a motion to accept the agenda; Unanimous vote (6-0)

Lincoln Heineman made a motion to approve minutes from October 4th with corrections; the vote was (3 in favor) Patrice Metro and Sean deLacy abstained.

Article 4 - Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Reconciliations: Kevin Cafferty and Sean Anderson

Water Enterprise Repair & Maintenance:

Kevin asked if anyone attended the meeting where they discussed the brown water issue. He explained that it was decided to implement a method of flushing the pipes called ice pigging. They were going to start the process on the Driftway and on Kent Street. Lincoln asked where the money was coming from and Nancy explained that there was an existing Capital Article with \$78,000 left. Article 4 is requesting \$200,000 to continue the ice pigging process if it is successful.

Kevin explained the procedure as follows, you take a slug of ice or slush and run it through the pipes and it will absorb the sediment from inside the pipes, cleaning them. We cannot flush because we do not have enough water velocity. Sean Anderson said manganese is causing a lot of the brown water which sticks to the inside surface of the pipe and is very difficult to get out.

Kevin said we are starting the process next Wednesday night along the Driftway.

Patrice asked if we will continue as a maintenance process and Kevin said they are planning on doing that if it is successful; Sean Anderson added that they will to ask for additional funds if that is the case.

Kevin said that Well 18, near the driving range at Widow's Walk Golf Course is putting out high levels of manganese and that it had to be shut down. The other source was from the old well on Tack Factory Road which was closed down 15 years ago, but the manganese caused from this well is still stuck to the pipes.

Anthony asked if they did any work to the wells, Kevin said they cleaned all the wells and treated with pantonite which was supposed to get rid of the manganese.

Anthony asked about Well 17A, Kevin said it needed a “green” sand filter and that it was another source of manganese that was flowing into the system.

Elise asked what happens after the ice pigging and if you flush after, Kevin said yes that you would flush after.

Lincoln asked if the brown water was definitely from the manganese, Kevin said yes and that it is also from the old pipes, which we have been replacing with larger the pipes.

Patrice asked if they were doing something different since July, Kevin said as they are replacing pipes and enlarging them it is changing the water flows. Some areas are not getting brown water anymore and other areas are now getting brown water.

Lincoln asked about the chlorine taste/smell in the last 3 weeks. Sean Anderson said some of the sediment is dropping which brings the chlorine residual level higher.

Anthony asked if we rebuilt the wells, and Kevin said we redid all the wells. He added that Well 22 had a partial collapse and they got it running again and added a satellite well.

Lincoln asked about the source of funds and Kevin said that it is coming from Water Retained Earnings.

Mike asked what the total cost would be if the tests worked. Kevin said we purchase the ice per load and that \$82,000 will get us 6 to 8 loads of ice.

Water Enterprise Technical Services:

Kevin said that it would cost \$75,000 to update the hydrology study.

Water Enterprise Regular Salaries:

The Department wants to hire an Assistant Superintendent to deal with the brown water issues full time. Lincoln asked who worked there now for personnel. Kevin said Sean Anderson, a foreman and a chief operator. At the earlier meeting where they discussed solutions for the brown water problem, a suggestion came up that they needed a dedicated person to work in the field to handle pipe work, green sand filters, upgrades in the treatment plant, brown water, pipe breakage issues and day-to-day water treatment plant issues.

Jim said if a resident has brown water, Sean Anderson goes out to meet with the household. They try to flush hydrants, etc. If any other issues like this or other emergencies come up Sean has to stop what he is doing and leave the water treatment plant.

Kevin brought up the fact that some areas do not have enough hydrants in certain neighborhoods to flush pipes.

Sean deLacy said he liked the idea of hiring someone.

Mike Westort asked if we would need someone once the brown water issue is fixed, Kevin and Jim said yes that this person will be needed because we need to make improvements to our pipes and wells.

Discuss Article 5 – Repairs to Water Treatment: Kevin Cafferty and Sean Anderson

Kevin said we were looking for money to replace the failed sand filters. They are made up of 17 inches of sand which allows the water to drain into a carbon filter. An inspection was done by a company which found fouling of the plates. The plates that hold the sand are falling apart and we cannot shut the water treatment plant down to fix it. It is at 90% failure. Kevin also said that the Trac Vac replacement project, which was previously approved was not able to be completed due to the fact that the water treatment plant cannot be shut down. This article would also include funding for some temporary green sand filters for wells so the treatment plant can be taken off line to make all the necessary repairs. There may also be issues with the basins or the wall separating the basins because the readings are off.

Anthony asked if the plant was neglected, Sean said since he has been here he has received his licenses and learned a lot of things about the water treatment center and about running the appropriate tests.

Lincoln asked what else we have to do in the next 5 years and if it was on the Capital plan. Jim Boudreau said that currently, we only have one of everything and therefore can never shut down to fix issues. We are looking into what needs to be done to fix everything and will come back with recommendations.

Sean deLacy said do you think we will recommend a new build, Sean Anderson said it was rebuilt in 1991 and may have to be rebuilt again. He also said to be compliant with the DEP you need two sets of filters, which we do not have.

Lincoln asked if one new person would be sufficient if we have to run and maintain a new plant. Jim said yes and that the personnel that we currently have will hopefully be here as well to help with the transition. Sean Anderson said the old plant does not have a lot of automation and that a new plant would.

Lincoln asked about the March storm when we lost pipes and it flooded, Lincoln asked if the money came out of sewer or water. Nancy said that it came from stabilization. Lincoln was happy with the payment structure.

Patrice asked what the true impact of the water supply would be from the new Toll Brothers development, Kevin said it won't affect anything because we are regulated by a DEP permit. What will happen is that the restrictions will kick in sooner. He also added that it could improve the hydraulics as well.

Article 6 FEMA Reimbursement

Disaster	PW #	Location	Total Claim	Total FEMA Potential Reimbursement	Design, Engineering & Permitting (20%)	Design FEMA Potential Reimbursement
2012 (Sandy)	301	Third Cliff	\$ 2,241,135	\$ 1,680,851	\$ 448,227	\$ 336,170
2013 (Nemo)	820	Minot Beach Revetment	\$ 254,540	\$ 190,905	\$ 50,908	\$ 38,181
2013 (Nemo)	821	Glades Beach Revetment	\$ 274,980	\$ 206,236	\$ 54,996	\$ 41,247
2013 (Nemo)	824	Second Cliff Revetment	\$ 305,910	\$ 229,433	\$ 61,182	\$ 45,887
2013 (Nemo)	834	Third Cliff Revetment	\$ 1,025,165	\$ 768,874	\$ 205,033	\$ 153,775
2013 (Nemo)	835	First Cliff Revetment	\$ 262,360	\$ 196,770	\$ 52,472	\$ 39,354
2013 (Nemo)	838	Egypt Beach Berm	\$ 446,965	\$ 336,723	\$ 89,393	\$ 67,045
2015 (Juno)	1171	Seawall & Revetment Damages	\$ 5,905,083	\$ 4,428,812	\$ 1,181,017	\$ 885,762
2018 (Riley)	TBD	Seawall & Revetment Damages	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,200,000
Non-Declared		Turner/Oceanside Seawall			\$ 250,000	
		Total	\$ 18,716,139	\$ 14,038,605	\$ 3,993,228	\$ 2,807,421

Nancy said that the chart reflects all of the open FEMA worksheets. She added that none of the work had been done yet and that it had been going back and forth for the past 5 years. The damage is in the same area, so it is hard to get FEMA approval. We have gotten to the point where we can consolidate into one project. 10% has to be improvement and Nancy said we have to create a design. This article would give us money to fund a design plan. We could be “shovel ready” which would help us to receive grants.

Anthony wanted to know what areas really need to be fixed, Kevin said 3rd cliff and 2nd cliff.

Lincoln said this is the time to make a plan and figure out how we are going to pay for it and as part of the plan we should look into what we can do to protect our business district. Jim said that Brad is focusing on that now.

Nancy added that Hazard Mitigation money is available, if there is a presidential disaster is declared.

Anthony said buildings could be raised to the proper elevation.

Mike wanted to clarify that we are applying for \$18M and we need \$4M (spending authorization) to design before we can receive the \$18M .

Sean said we should meet with Kyle (Nancy Durfee’s replacement), Lincoln agreed.

Discuss Articles: 10 – 12: Property Tax Exemption Asset Limit Increase: Joe DiVito

A tax exemption is a release from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a tax. You must file with the Assessor's office each year. Deadline for filing the exemption is **APRIL 1, 2019**. If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's office at 781-545-8712.

OWNERSHIP: • Must own **and** occupy the property as of July 1*
 • Life Estate OR
 • Trustee with a beneficial interest OR
 • Joint owner with tenants in common

* Must own & occupy the property for at least 5 years
 ** Must own & occupy the property or any other property in MA for 5 years
 # Must be a MA resident for preceding 10 years
 + Age as of July 1st of tax year
 ^ Does not include \$4,628 single or \$6,942 married Social Security Deduction

ELIGIBLE AGE	CLAUSE	BASIC – ASSISTANCE TYPE	INCOME LIMIT	ASSETS LIMIT	ASSISTANCE AMOUNT
Program Tax Relief					
18 & 18A		Financial Hardship (requirements: age, infirmity, poverty)	(Discretion of the Board of Assessors)		
65 **#+	41A	Defers payment of local property tax owned by senior until house is sold or senior dies	\$58,000 Max	None	Any amount up to maximum deferral (taxes accumulate with 8% interest/lien on property until house is sold)
70 *+	17D	Reduces local property tax liability of senior	None	\$41,000	\$175 Elderly Exemption
65 **#+^	41C	Reduces local property tax liability of senior	Single: \$20,000 Married: \$30,000	Single: \$40,000 Married: \$55,000	\$500 Elderly Exemption
Veterans w/Service Connected Disability (or Surviving Spouse)					
22		10% Service Related Disability-Purple Heart-Gold Star Parent	None	None	\$400 Veterans Exemption
22A		Permanent loss of 1 foot or hand or eye and/or service medals	None	None	\$750 Veterans Exemption
22B		Permanent loss of both feet, hands or 1 foot and 1 hand, or loss of both eyes	None	None	\$1,250 Veterans Exemption
22C		Permanent & total disability with "special adapted housing"	None	None	\$1,500 Veterans Exemption
22D		Surviving spouse of soldier or sailor killed in combat; from disease, MIA, or presumed dead due to combat	None	None	100% Veterans Exemption
22E		100% disabled (provide letter of disability)	None	None	\$1,000 Veterans Exemption
PARA		Paraplegic	None	None	100% Veterans Exemption
Others					
37A		Legally Blind (annually provide Certificate of Blindness)	None	None	\$500 Blind Exemption
17D		Surviving spouse	None	\$41,000	\$175 Elderly Exemption
42		Surviving spouse of fire fighter or police officer killed in the line of duty	None	None	100% Surviving Spouse Fire/Police Exemption
43		Surviving minor children of fire fighter or police officer killed in the line of duty	None	None	100% Surviving Minor Children Fire/Police Exemption
60	CPF	Community Preservation Act Exemption	Ask for Details		

ARTICLE 10. Local Option Acceptance – Property Tax Exemptions Asset Limit Increase

Joe said that the sections highlighted in yellow corresponded with Article 10, 11 & 12.

17D reduces local property tax liability for surviving spouses of seniors (over 70 and assets under \$41,000, not including home). The change would be to move assets from under \$40,000 to assets under \$41,000.

Joe said he would like to see these articles approved so the qualifying factors are up to today's standards and then we can see the increase in the number of participants and determine what the impact would be to the Town.

He further stated that there would be minor financial impact to Town.

ARTICLE 11. Local Option Acceptance – Property Tax Exemptions Asset Limit Increase

We are not helping a lot of seniors with the current exemptions that are in place. We want to keep people in their homes. The changes include:

- Lowering the Age to 65
- Increasing the limits
- May have 30 additional applicants
- Increases will be absorbed by Town \$12,000 from Overlay funding

ARTICLE 12. Local Option Acceptance – Property Tax Deferral Asset Limit Increase

This will increase the annual asset limit for seniors to defer their property taxes.

The way tax deferral works is if you are 65 years of age we put a lien on your property to cover the cost of paying owed taxes, charging 8% interest. The senior can defer up to 100% and you do not have to do it every year. Taxes are not due until you transfer the property or upon death.

Joe explained that it does not come out of overlay and that it will come out of cash flow and that he did not think the numbers would increase by much because a lot of seniors do not want to do it.

Mike asked if they have a reverse mortgage were they were still eligible, Joe said yes, if the bank will subordinate it and we are in the first position.

Patrice asked if the increases were comparable to other towns, Joe said we are catching up to other towns as far as assets and income.

Jim said we are just trying to make basic changes to help people.

Lincoln asked if we had a Taxation Aid Committee, Jim said no. Lincoln thought it would be good to have in Scituate he added that they have one in Hanover and it is successful.

Discuss Article 8: Plastic Bag Reduction: Lisa Scanlon

Lisa said they were proposing that single use plastic bags from grocery stores be banned in Scituate establishments, except for the food pantry. She added that it will promote “bring your own bag” and that several other communities have done this already, Cohasset being one of them.

Sean asked how it would affect the businesses, especially the smaller ones. Lisa said it is a cost savings for them and a lot of smaller stores use paper now. Lisa said they were expecting this and are prepared.

Lisa explained that the handle had to be stitched on to be considered a reusable bag.

Nancy added that Town Counsel made a few minor edits to the article.

Patrice said it excludes the food pantry and wanted to know in the article where that was stated, Nancy explained that is was reflected in the definition of what a store was.

Discuss Article 14 and Article 15: Community Choice Aggregation: Lisa Bertola

ARTICLE 14. Community Choice Aggregation Enabling Legislation

Lisa explained that working on sustainability was important to her, she said she cared about the environment and that she felt this was environmentally sound. She told the Committee that the article will just get the process in motion. Massachusetts is one of 8 states that allows communities to do this. We want a greener option for residents and small businesses. She explained that the market is volatile and we are allowed to go out to the marketplace during a time of year when other distributors cannot, so we can get competitive rates. This article would allow town officials to act on the Town's behalf. We want it to be affordable, stop cold calling, provide green options, and give people the ability to "opt out."

Lincoln asked how you would opt out, Lisa said it will be communicated. It may be a 800 number or a website. The process will be explained in advance.

Sean asked if there was a certain amount of time allotted to opt out. Lisa said you have months and it will be spelled out clearly.

Sean asked about other Towns, Jim said Boston and Dedham are some example of towns that are doing this and that there was a website available with additional information.

Mike asked how many options would be available, Jim said that this would just start the process and that the options have not been determined yet.

Lisa clarified that the price would be competitive with the default, but would not be cheaper.

ARTICLE 15. Community Choice Aggregation Resolution

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following: A Non-Binding Resolution for Increased Use of Class I Renewable Resources through a Community Choice Aggregation Energy Program in the Town of Scituate

This is a non-binding article that would propose that a percentage would go toward green power and would not include a "non-green" option as a default.

Kathy Cerruti, 65 Brook Street, said that currently through National Grid she opts for a greener option, I think I will end up saving money with this green choice option. I am not the only one that chooses green for their house and I am hoping with this program, I would pay less.

Lisa explained that we would be aggregating as a group, so that makes the rates lower, but it has to be set up as an opt out, not an opt in.

Gary Meyerson (CPC) 26 Summer Street, asked if the average household would pay more or less. He felt that most people were not going to opt out, which he didn't think was fair. He thought that if they were going to be paying more that you have to let them now.

Jim said if you select the 100% Green option it will be more, if you go zero it will be less than the default.

Mike said can you get an aggregation and just save money without the green option. It would save more money for seniors than the proposed Assistance Amounts [Articles 10 -12]

Lisa said this is only a 2 or 3 year contract and she also said that renewable energy credits are becoming more competitive.

Lisa further stated that The Town and its residents are paying dearly due to climate change. This is the single most effective thing we can do to combat climate change. The kids are watching and they want this for their generation.

Lisa wanted to thank Jim for his help and support.

Discuss/Assign November 2018 STM Articles: Nancy Holt and Jim Boudreau

Article 1 - Lincoln

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 2 - Lincoln

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 3 - Geoff

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 4 - Sean

Budget Reconciliations. Jim said it is complicated to get the water treatment plant up to speed. We have a 10 year capital plan.

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 5 – Anthony

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 6 - Jamie

Mike said we will spend the same amount of money anyway, Nancy and Jim said yes. This is not our full share this is just design.

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 7 – Mike

- **Item 1**

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this item.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this item.

- **Item 2**

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this item.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this item.

- **Item 3 & 4**

Mike said what is the worst case scenario if we do not purchase, Gary said we do not know what will happen with the property. We have a cap on what we will pay \$599,000 depending on the assessment. Jim said you could easily get a house on the property, Gary said you would put in another \$150,000 - \$200,000. But he thought it would be possible you to get a variance to build more?

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of these items.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of these items.

Article Eight – Patrice

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Majority in favor (5-1)

Article Nine – Jamie

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 10 - Elise

Sean asked if we were required to do this, Jim said no, but it is not a big environment and he felt it was the right thing to do.

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 11 – Elise

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 12 – Elise

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 13. Hold

Article 14 - Jerry

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor of this article.

Article 15 – Jerry

Mike thinks it could be more money for residents. He thought we could save seniors money on their energy bill without the green option. Patrice thought the articles [10-12] were for two difference purposes. She said this is about saving the environment and people can opt out.

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this article.

Advisory Committee Vote: Vote (5-1) in favor of this article.

Lincoln made the deadline for write-ups October 21st.

Advisory Liaisons Assignments:

EDC – Geoff Burns and **Sean deLacy**

CPC - Mike Westort

School Committee – Patrice Metro

Capital Planning - Anthony Antonello
Street Acceptance Committee – Jamie Gilmore
Financial Forecasting – Lincoln Heineman
Waterways Commission – Elise Russo
School Building Committee – Jerry Kelly
Public Building Commission – Anthony Antonello
Sister City Committee -- Jamie Gilmore
Planning Committee -- Jerry Kelly

Patrice Metro made a motion to adopt the new liaison list, seconded by Sean deLacy; Unanimous Vote (6 -0).

New Business

Nancy Holt showed a 3 minute video on Ice Pigging to the Committee.

There being no further business to discuss, Lincoln Heineman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM; Unanimous vote (5-0). Mike Westort stepped out of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lianne Cataldo (Recording Secretary)

Follow-up Items:

- Taxation Aid Committee

On-going Items:

- Any Economic questions regarding marijuana sales can be sent to Valerio
- Research if banned towns would receive funds from marijuana sales
- Committee for Marijuana zoning research
- Look for ways to improve the Advisory Booklet for Town Meeting
- Lincoln also said we had voted to have the Board of Selectmen adopt a remote meeting policy to vote, would still need 5 people in the room.
- Invite PBC member(s) to explain architect decision for Senior Center
- Site Visits

Referenced Materials

- *Agenda*
- *Meeting Minutes*
- *Water Treatment Plant Issues*
- *Property Tax Exemption Asset Limit Increase Chart*
- *STM Draft Warrant*
- *STM Article Background Summaries*