



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

**Board of Sewer Commissioners
Old Selectman's Room – Town Hall
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present: Peter Reilly, Chairman
Joseph Zecco
Andrew Nelson
Vincent Thai, EIT, Jr. Civil Engineer
Dan Rowley, Water and Sewer Superintendent

Also Present: Paul Scheffer
Jamie King

1. **Call to Order:**
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. **Approval of minutes from the meeting on June 4, 2019, and January 14, 2020:**
Mr. Joseph Zecco motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 4, 2019, Mr. Andrew Nelson seconded, all were in favor. Mr. Zecco motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting on January 14, 2020, Mr. Nelson seconded, all were in favor.
3. **Stormwater appeal for 62 Westwood Road – Mr. Paul Scheffer:**
Mr. Paul Scheffer began his appeal with the history of his request and an overview of his property. He mentioned that he believes the stormwater from his property remains in his yard and does not enter the Town's stormwater system. He also inquired about the credit policy in Section 11 of the Town's Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations. Mr. Peter Reilly summarized the appeal into three categories:

1. The first point Mr. Scheffer is making is that all of the water from his roof is entering the ground in his yard and that the driveway is pitched inward so water is not entering the street.
2. What are the hardships that qualify for credits according to the policy?
3. Ensuring the methodology for applying the stormwater fee is applied evenly throughout town.

Mr. Vincent Thai offered information on the method that stormwater fees are calculated through the stormwater utility. The fees are determined by the total impervious area and not the drainage characteristics of the property, such as the pitch of the driveway. He mentioned that the pitch Mr. Schffer's driveway was observed and noted during his visit to the property but it had no bearing on the tier and credit against the stormwater fee. He also mentioned that Section 11 of the Town's Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations includes potential options for credits but they are not defined in the approved credit policy. Therefore, no credits will be given on the basis of age or economic status. Mr. Scheffer mentioned that he believes his property should be in the Tier One category and not the Tier Two category it is currently in with a fee of \$200. Mr. Scheffer also inquired about grandfathering properties if additions are constructed and mentioned that he believes Shrewsbury's Stormwater Utility is unique from other communities. The discussion continued regarding how the Stormwater Rules and Regulations were developed and it was decided the Sewer Commission would look into hardship credits and get back to Mr. Sheffer at a later date.

4. Discussion on Pump Station Tour:

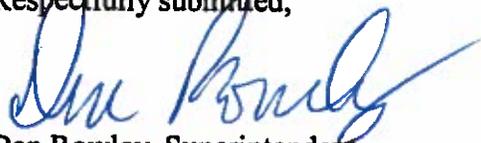
Mr. Reilly mentioned that the pump station tour was helpful and Mr. Nelson mentioned that it was beneficial to see several different styles of pump stations with some being newer and some being older.

5. Discussion on Sewer Rate Study:

Mr. Reilly began with mentioning that he recently attended a workshop with the Board of Selectman and the leadership team from the Department of Public Works. He highlighted that the Town has great employees who have been successful with limited resources. He asked that the rate increase study include what is really needed to keep the sewer system reliable for years to come. Mr. Reilly also asked that a document be created to advise the Sewer Commissioners of areas they should be particularly concerned about which could fail causing a catastrophic issue. Mr. Zecco highlighted that the sewer surplus was in place to assist with maintaining the system and he noted that he supports additional maintenance. Mr. Nelson mentioned that the longer we wait to modernize some of the equipment it could be more expensive. He also mentioned that debt rates are low and it may be more advantageous to invest in capital projects rather than pay high maintenance costs. The sewer rate study will be continued at the next meeting with more information about critical capital needs.

6. **Superintendent's Update:**
Mr. Rowley mentioned that he would be away February 13 – 21, 2020.
7. **Update on Stormwater Utility:**
Mr. Thai provided a financial update on the Stormwater Utility and mentioned that the State of Massachusetts will not pay the stormwater utility bills on properties in town. There was a question whether the Federal Government pays the stormwater utility fees, which will have to be looked into. Mr. Reilly inquired about how much material was collected during the fall street sweeping program. Mr. Thai replied that one pass was made throughout town and 160 tons of debris was collected.
8. **Various updates on ongoing and upcoming sewer projects:**
Mr. Rowley mentioned that the bid opening for the Route 20 sewer project would be on Thursday, February 13, 2020. He also mentioned that the construction of the BT pump station would be starting soon.
9. **Select date and time for next meeting:**
The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.
10. **Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Rowley, Superintendent
Water and Sewer Division

Approved,



Peter Reilly, Chairman
Sewer Commission

