

**BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS – MINUTES 2020**  
**June 29, 2020**

Meeting opened at 4:30 P.M.

**Present:** Paul Joly, Thomas Ferry, Robert Woods (via Zoom), Supt. Harold Gracia and Dianne Curtis.

**Review and sign bills.**

**Minutes:** Minutes of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were approved.

**New Business:**

**Welcome Robert Woods to The Board of Sewer Commissioners:** The Board and Supt. Harold Gracia congratulated and welcomed Robert Woods to The Board of Sewer Commissioners.

**Reorganization of The Board of Sewer Commissioners:** Robert Woods motioned for Paul Joly to be Chairman; Thomas Ferry seconded the motion; all ayes; none opposed; motion passes.

Paul Joly motioned for Thomas Ferry to be Clerk; Robert Woods seconded the motion; all ayes; none opposed; motion passes.

**Review Memo from GHD Engineering Company and Field Reports Re: Stonegate Landing Pump Station:** The Board reviewed reports from GHD Engineering Company regarding the Stonegate Landing Pump Station Project. Supt. Gracia brought Mr. Woods up to date regarding this project. Dianne Curtis will put a packet together for Mr. Woods to familiarize himself with the Stonegate Landing Pump Station project.

**Sign End of the Year Employee Bonuses:** The Board signed the End of the Year Employee Bonus Forms.

**Paid Invoice from Bay State Sewage Disposal; Discuss Submitting to B.C.A.H.S.:** Supt. Gracia explained to Mr. Woods, that he had to call Bay State Sewage Disposal for the Bristol County Agricultural High School (B.C.A.H.S.). Supt. Gracia briefed Mr. Woods on the Sewer Upgrade Project going on at B.C.A.H.S. Supt. Gracia stated that he had to investigate to find where the water was coming into the sewer system. He stated that it was one running toilet that was running continuously, that caused the problem. He indicated that this is when he called Bay State Sewage Disposal to pump out the water. Supt. Gracia suggested that the bill from Bay State Sewage Disposal should be sent to B.C.A.H.S. for reimbursement. Dianne Curtis stated that the bill was paid by the Sewer Dept. Thomas Ferry motioned to send a letter along with the copy of the bill from Bay State Sewage Disposal, to be sent to B.C.A.H.S. for reimbursement; Paul Joly stepped down as Chair and seconded the motion; all ayes; none opposed; motion passes.

**Review Invoice from AECOM for FY 2019 Services:** There was discussion regarding a bill from AECOM for services rendered in FY 2019. The Board will take it under advisement as the bill is over a year old. It was stated to check with the Town Accountant on this bill.

**Review Backflow Letters from Dighton Water District:** The Board reviewed letters from the Dighton Water District. The letter stated a request to continue having the Dighton Water District do the Backflow Prevention Testing. The Board and Supt. Gracia stated to have them continue to do the testing.

**Sign Payroll Change Forms:** The Board signed the Payroll Change Forms.

**Sign Payment Designation Authorization Form:** The Board signed the Payment Designation Authorization Form. Thomas Ferry motioned to leave the Designation Authorization to remain the same; Paul Joly stepped down as Chair and seconded the motion; all ayes; none opposed; motion passes.

**Review and Sign Weston & Sampson Proposal for Strawberry Fields Estates Review Project:** The Board reviewed and signed a Proposal from Weston & Sampson with regards to the sewer study for the Strawberry Fields project.

**Set New Board Meeting Dates:**

*All Board Meetings begin at 4:30 P.M.*

July 13, 2020

August 10, 2020

**Drain-Layer License Application from GER Corporation:** The Board reviewed a Drain-Layer License application for GER Corporation. Thomas Ferry motioned to approve GER Corporation as a licensed drain-layer for the Town of Dighton; Paul Joly stepped down as Chair and seconded the motion; all ayes; none opposed; motion passes.

**Old Business:**

**Superintendent's Report:**

Supt. Harold Gracia discussed with The Board the running toilet issue at B.C.A.H.S. which required the services of Bay State Sewage Disposal.

Supt. Gracia stated that on June 11<sup>th</sup>, he was called in to the B.C.A.H.S. Pump Station, where there were high-level alarms going off at the pump station. He stated that the pumps in the pump station had difficulty keeping up with the incoming water from the heavy rain that day.

Supt. Gracia stated that there have been several issues at the Park Street Pump Station. He stated that the first issue was with the UPS Battery Backup for the level control system. He stated that sewerage was pouring into the dry well of the Station. Initially, Edwin McAuliffe, Laborer for the Dighton Sewer Dept., attended to the station and then called Supt. Gracia. Supt. Gracia stated that he immediately went to the Park Street Station. He stated that he called septic truck companies to have the Park Street Station pumped out. Supt. Gracia stated that it was the UPS Battery Backup that tripped and caused the problem. He stated that this was the first flooding of the pump station.

Supt. Gracia stated that one week later, the flooding issue occurred again at the Park Street Pump Station. There is a landline phone through Verizon that monitors the alarm system at this Pump Station. He stated that the landline went down, a local alarm went off, however, no one was called. He stated that the flood this time was worse than the previous occurrence. Supt. Gracia stated that the flood was up to the ceiling and light fixtures of the Pump Station. He stated that when the Verizon landline went down, he contacted Verizon and they repaired the landline. Supt. Gracia stated that when the Pump Station was flooded again, the emergency fire alarm in the Pump Station called out to the Fire Dept. There are issues with the lower level fire alarm. He stated that both pumps are back online, but there are issues with some failures or drawing high amperage on the pumps according to the pump controller. Supt. Gracia stated that he contacted Paul St. George of PRS Electric, to troubleshoot electrical issues with some of the alarms. Mr. St. George bypassed alarms and was able to get the Pump Station up and operating.

Supt. Gracia stated that, he again, had issues with the transducers and the Verizon landline went down again, a couple of days later. He stated that the alarms went off again and the pumps failed again as well. He said that this was the third time the station flooded. Supt. Gracia stated that both pumps are operating at this Station. He had to replace two transducers for level controls and have since been rectified. Supt. Gracia stated that he would like to discuss with The Board addressing better monitoring systems for the alarms at the Pump Stations. Chairman Joly agreed. There was discussion between The Board and Supt. Gracia regarding The Sewer Dept.'s consultant engineers and discussing better monitoring systems, in the near future.

There was general discussion between Supt. Gracia and The Board regarding the B.C.A.H.S. Pump Station Upgrade Project.

Thomas Ferry motioned to adjourn at 6:05 P.M.; Paul Joly stepped down as Chair and seconded; all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Minutes taken by Dianne Curtis. Transcribed by Joelle Anger.

  
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Paul Joly, Chairman  
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Thomas Ferry, Clerk  
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Robert Woods