

**Meeting Minutes– Sewer Commission**  
**Northfield Town Hall**  
**69 Main Street, Northfield MA**  
**Jan 25, 2024– 4:30 pm - Conference Room First Floor**

<b>Commission:</b>	<b>Present</b>		<b>Additional:</b>	<b>Requested:</b>
<b>Chair – Dan Gray (DG)</b>	<b>A</b>			
Tom Walker (TW)	<b>P</b>		Michele Turner (MT)	<b>n/a</b>
Karen Boudreau (KB)	<b>P</b>		Zach Chornyak – T&B	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Chief - Isaac Golding (IG)</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>Dave Quinn Jr.</b>	<b>P</b>

**Call to order: 4:30 PM TW**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- **Motion to Approve: Karen Boudreau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Walker, All approved.**
- Citizen's Communication: Dave Quinn Jr. at 5 pm.**

**Business:**

- Reorganization. Chair re-org and potential 2 seat expansion.
  - Discussion surrounding the possible re-org and vote for the Chair. A vote was not held at this time. The Commission wants to focus on the FY25 budget and revisit in the near future.
  - The article to expand was voted in by the Citizens. 2 Select Board members opposed, Heath Cummings and Alan Meisner. Barbara Jacque abstained.
- Water Line Update and Railroad by TW and KB.
  - Work with Arc Energy is continuing. Specifications for size and psi are documented. Arc is in regular communication with Genessee Railroad. No vote needed.
- FY 24 Budget Review, as of 01/25/2024.
  - The Budget line items reviewed. The budget is expended at 52.46 %. There is 47.54 remaining in the budget. The year is 58% completed.
- Grants – MVP funding possibility. Expression of Interest for the Mill St Siphon analysis consent order task. Status update. Andrea Llamas is waiting for a response.
- Special Town Meeting (STM) – January 24, 2024, Wrap up from STM articles.
  - Article 4 Ent Fund \$50,000 - Highland Ave Project – Sewer Department improvements coupled with Highway Dept Sidewalk & Culvert project, satisfies part of the Consent order.
  - The Sewer Comm voted to accept the bid from Weston&Sampson for \$31,000.
  - **Motion to Approve: Karen Boudreau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Walker, All approved.**
  - Article 5 Ent Fund \$50,000 – Manhole Raising and Manhole Rehab from Asset Mgmt Plan, \$150,000. Consent Order project.
  - Article 6 - Expand Commission to 5 members to go before Mass House/Senate.

**Dave Quinn Jr. 5:00-5:20. Free Sewer Usage Presentation and Owning the Sewer.**

Dave worked from a file folder of documents. The following items are from Dave's presentation to the Commission.

- Dave Jr: The story begins in 1910 Dave's great uncle George Kidder put together a central community sewer that went under the railroad and into a cesspool. Everyone used it. They paid \$5.00/year to access under the railroad tracks.

- Dave Jr: 1977 The Town built the Plant. The Interceptor Lines were installed by the Town and tied into the Community line. The Sewer Comm tied into it, no permission but tied in anyway. Dave Quinn Sr contacted the Sewer Commission.
- Dave Quinn Sr. hired an attorney.
- Dave Jr. Talked to the Attorney about 2 years ago. (2022?). The attorney was approximately 96 years old at the time of the conversation.
- 1977 The desire was to have the Town purchase Quinn Sr's s sewer or receive free sewer for all Quinn heirs at the addresses of 1 Parker ave, The Funeral Home, and 14 Kidder Court forever.
- Dave Jr. has an unsigned copy of this letter. Dave Jr. estimates that the agreement was probably signed in 1979. Karen asked if the letter had a date and Dave Jr. replied 'No'.
- For 50 years, the Quinn family members and their businesses never received a Sewer Bill.
- About 4 years ago, Dave Jr. began receiving Sewer bills. Former Sewer Commissioner and Chair Alex Meisner spoke with Dave Jr at that time.
- Dave Jr. has not paid any of the Sewer Bills since the meeting with Alex Meisner. Dave Jr. sent Invoices to the Commission for back rent of his private sewer. He claims that he sent these to cover himself. He doesn't really expect any money back from the Town.
- Dave Jr has not sought legal counsel. He has an unsigned letter from Al Stone (former Sewer Commissioner) to Barb Brasseur, Treasurer/Collector at the time. It is dated 10/17/1990 and it instructs an annual abatement in perpetuity.
- There was a repair of approximately \$2500.00 to Jake Browning to fix a problem.
- We informed Dave Jr that we would need time to discuss and research available Town records.
- Dave Quinn Jr. left at 5:13.
- Further Commission discussion: Tom Walker questioned why documents were unsigned and unnotarized. Some repair bills were paid by the Sewer Commission. Our next steps will be to assemble a Timeline. Tom would like Amanda Lynch to check the vault for Sewer Paperwork. No vote needed.

#### **Billing:**

- Abatements - None.
- Questions/Correspondence/Applications - none

#### **Next Meeting Agenda:**

**Next Meeting Date:** 2/1/2024

**Adjourned:** 5:35. **Motion to Approve:** Karen Boudreau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Walker, All approved.

**Approved:**

Signature: Karen Bordman Date: 2/20/2024

Signature: Thomas Whelan Date: 2/20/24

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is posted in compliance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.