

Minutes of 3/31/26 Sewer Commission meeting-- via Zoom (Video Conference)

Attendees: Chair- Brett Ramsden, Vice-Chair- Scott Dall, Clerk- Dan Proctor, Member: Arthur Katis and Chip Wilson, DPW Director- Bill Bernard, Sewer Business Manager- Andrew Valliere, Minutes Clerk- Jane Ranley
Brett opened the meeting at 6:02 pm. and did a roll call of attendees. The Commission began the meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Brett apologized for missing Chip's first official meeting and the Commission is glad to have him onboard. They look forward to his future input on their decisions.

CURRENT BUSINESS –

---Minutes of 03/10/26

Motion: Scott D.

Second: Dan P.

To accept the minutes of the 3/10/26 meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Scott-aye, Arthur-aye, Dan-aye and Chip-aye. (Brett abstained.)

---DPW Director/Sewer Business Manager Updates--

--Manhole Repair IFB- Bill reported that the contractor came in and inspected the remaining manholes to be done. They came up with a work list and have asked if they can get going, but the nighttime temperatures are too cold. With the weather changing this week, he will give them the go ahead to finish the contract. Bill noted the contractor is Insituform Technologies and there are 10-15 manholes left to do. They will do special liners, fill active cracks, block bigger holes and go around pipes. The goal is to slow down the I/I (Inflow/Infiltration) problem. Also there are about 15 manholes that will have frames and covers replaced. Dan noted that he was doing a job on Laurel Lane a couple of weeks ago and Bill asked him to help locate a certain pump line. At the end of Laurel Lane, there is a manhole with three 1.25" pump lines coming in. One line, which was discontinued years ago, was flowing about a half a pipeful of water infiltration. He suggested that March is a good time to pop manholes to look for issues like this, especially in known wet areas. Dan said they were able to slow the flow but not completely seal it. Bill will have Insituform seal it also. He reported that Robert Lilly (CTE Contractor) noted after they did drainage work and paved Francis St. and Stevens St., the I/I issue at the Francis St. Station had slowed down. In addition, Robert stated he will be leaving CTE to concentrate on his own business. The new CTE contractor will be Al Packard, Jr. (Albe), who knows our system and has the same expertise as Robert. Brett questioned how they could find problems in the manholes, such as Dan found on Laurel Lane. Bill replied that the Commission had studies done in the past and the Insituform contract is targeting the worst manholes with I/I issues. They could go back to review other manholes in the studies but cannot do it this fiscal year.

--Q3 FY26 Demands – Andrew reported the demands were sent out 3/16 and people are starting to pay them. The delinquency rate is now around 18%.

--FY27 Budget – Bill noted the Commission has already voted to approve the budget and the Town Manager had a couple questions about the rate increase, which the Commission also approved. The FY27 Budget will be presented at Town Meeting.

--Sewer/Stormwater- Bill reported they cannot easily combine the Stormwater and the Sewer Commission, without an act of the State Legislature. The Stormwater Task Force Committee voted to pull their article from the Town Meeting, which would have established the Stormwater Utility. It is a closed subject for now.

---Future Agenda Items-

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dan inquired about the proposed project on Pond St. Andrew reported that he talked to Ian, who said it was a short timeframe to get plans put together and it is up to the owner on proceeding. Dan noted he talked to an engineer who said there are municipalities that require developers to find and fix water problems if they are looking to add properties to the sewer system. Based on the flow they want to add, they would have to find leaky pipes to repair at their own expense. Chip agreed that developers are being forced to make improvements to sewer systems and drainage. They could use the studies to find issues for the developers to repair. Bill stated the special

liners run about \$3K per manhole. They also have a regulation that a development that is adding to the system would need to eliminate I/I or pay a fee to the I/I account. Brett asked about using precast for future manholes and Bill replied that everything is precast now.

UPCOMING SCHEDULED SEWER COMMISSION ACTIVITIES:

April 14, 2026 @ 6pm – Regular (Hybrid) Meeting

April 28, 2026 @ 6pm – (Zoom) Meeting

May 12, 2026 @ 6pm – Regular (Hybrid) Meeting

May 26, 2026 @ 6pm – (Zoom) Meeting

Motion: Scott D.

Second: Dan P.

To adjourn at 6:30pm.

Roll Call Vote: Chip-aye, Dan-aye, Scott-aye, Arthur-aye, and Brett-aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Ranley

Minutes Clerk