

**Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting**  
**July 24, 2023**

**NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.**

**Board Members In Attendance:** Tracy Wyman, Brian Coolidge, Tim Guiles, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Heather Nelson

**Others In Attendance:** Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Bernie Carr, Ralph Ethier, Janet Coolidge, Barb White, Tom White, Mike Frankiewicz, Molly Kennedy, Sara Rossigg, Brent Buehler, Dorothea Langevin, Steve Cijka, Stephanie Jerome, Sandy Mayo, Claire Astone, Steven Jupiter, Oscar Gardner, Ben Hsiung

**Others in Attendance via Zoom:** Marielle Blais, Sue Gage, Neil Silins, Jack Schneider

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13PM by Tracy Wyman – Board Chair.

***a. Agenda Adoption***

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Heather Nelson to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

***a) Approve Minutes of Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting - July 10, 2023***

**Motion** by Tim Guiles/Cecil Reniche-Smith to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Public Comment and Participation**

There was no discussion held.

**4. Discuss High Flow Events at Wastewater**

Tim Guiles stated Waterbury had previously invested money in their system and recently had a massive flooding event that did not release any effluents and asked what the Town could do to not release any effluent in the river.

Seth Hopkins stated in speaking with Steve Cijka, Tim Kingston and Vermont Rural Water, there are three possible options for the Town to address this issue. Mr. Hopkins noted Mr. Cijka is the highest-grade operator in the State and has institutional experience. The Town's collection system that leads to the facility is prone to infiltration and there is water seeping into the pipes that does not need treating. The Town could replace the 22 miles of collection system lines to prevent the water coming from the sky. Another option is a holding capacity at the plant and if all comes at them, there could be a lagoon installed to release the water slowly to be treated at a more normal pace. This would be a 15-million-gallon structure. The third option brought up is a sequencing batch reactor system that uses technology with the way the water is treated and has the ability to adjust. Currently there are two operators that do the adjusting manually. Any of the three options could make an impact. The ballpark estimate was one million per mile for the collection system lines to prevent the ground water from coming in. Mr. Hopkins did not have estimates for the holding tank or batch reactor.

Heather Nelson asked how big of a problem there is in Mr. Cijka's professional opinion. Mr. Cijka stated before 1960, 365 days a year sewage got to the river. In his estimation, if there are 20 days a year when it is bad the Town would be doing good. The collection system was put in in the 1930s and now the cost is a million dollars a mile. If the Town could fix one at a time, the ones that are leaking bad, it could be squared away eventually. Mr. Cijka noted the sequencing batch reactor failed in Poultney because of the span from normal flow to outrageous flow, and one cannot build something big enough. It would be smart to look at the pipes. Seth Hopkins stated Waterbury floodproofed their facility and the reason it

did not release into the water is that their system is built for 10 times more, and the Town's is 3 times. Cecil Reniche-Smith asked if the EPA has complained about the Town's system. Mr. Cijka advised they told the Town years ago to have an infiltration in-flow study done and is something that Mr. Hopkins will have to look at in the process. Mr. Cijka noted there are many joints and tree roots getting in and when pipes are put together, they are waterproof but not vapor proof. The Town needs to place trees correctly.

Bernie Carr asked if all the pipes in Segment 6 were brought up to code. Mr. Cijka stated there were some roof drains that were not put into the project. The mains lines were done but not the roof drains. The Route 7 problem was a drainage issue and they did Crescent Park that does not flood anymore and they put new drains in front of Ace Hardware and they are now going where they are supposed to go. The Town has to be careful if it decides to reline the pipes, as there is a plastic smell for about 2 months and it should be done in the summer when people can keep their windows open.

Claire Astone asked what type of grant money is available. Mr. Hopkins stated the Town would rely on grants from the USDA and the State Clean Water Revolving Fund which are what is being used for the plant upgrades. Ms. Astone noted she had two pumps running and a dry well, and she does not know what else they can do and these events are likely going to get more intense.

Tim Guiles stated in a flooding event, there is a lot of water that should not be in the system and a lagoon would be a legitimate system to consider. He would like to continue looking into solutions, get hard numbers and obtain funding.

## **5. Consider Purchase Orders**

*a) P. O. 12042 to RootX for Root Killer - \$11,314.00*

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Heather Nelson to approve P. O. 12042 to RootX in the amount of \$11,314.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Cecil Reniche-Smith to adjourn the Board of Sewer Commissioners meeting at 7:32PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary