

**TOWN OF DRESDEN SEWER COMMITTEES
SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING
Minutes**

Meeting held at 7:05pm 9/25/23

Attendees:

Allen Wilbur, Marc Brown, Patrick Keenan (by phone), Suzy Shad
Town attorney Matt Fuller
Jane Carter, Mary LaBrie, Margaret Stoutenburg, Tom Conrad, John Chakurmanian

Meeting Scheduling

Discussion was held about when to have the sewer committee meetings - meeting is staying as it is – 4th Monday of every month, 7pm, at town hall, so if action items come up that need to be addressed at the monthly Board meeting, there is time to do so.

Sewer District #1 General

1. Sewer District #1 law

Matt Fuller is currently drafting a single law that will cover SD#1 and SD#2. It will address the basics of both districts, including such things as committee structure, enforcement provisions, impact fees, hookups, etc. Parts of the law can apply to only one district if needed. Development regulation will be added to the law for each district as it is determined in the future - figuring out allocation of sewage per property (which properly will take thoughtful discussion of the Town) should not hold up adoption of the law.

Development regulation is necessary as each district has *finite capacity*. As properties in each district expand their sewage output, each district inches closer to reaching capacity limits. Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) is NOT an option, which might occur if we exceed capacity. Addressing increased load by increasing the treatment & hydraulic capacity of each system may not be cost-effective or able to be completed in a timely manner when full capacity is reached – therefore addressing the issue in a just manner before it reaches a critical point is prudent.

To create a thoughtful regulation policy, current maximum treatment capacity and hydraulic capacity must be known for each district. There also may be an “age limit” maximum for each system. At the moment, what is known for certain is what each district is *currently permitted* by the state to deal with – this is in each district’s State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit (this is publicly available information).

There is more than one way to review and regulate development. One way would be for the Town to put checkpoints in the building permit/occupancy certification process where the sewer committees would have review authority to assess the impact of development on each sewer system. To have caps on accepting increased sewage from each property (every property is allotted X flow) might result in the

need to buy-off capacity or transfer allotted capacity from a neighboring property if what a property owner is planning to build is over their allotted sewage.

Each District needs to:

- ascertain treatment & hydraulic capacity for each district (this data may be in the PER from the EPG Study for SD#1)
- compare current usage against capacity to figure out “excess capacity”
- determine how the excess capacity will be allocated among property owners in each district (Town decision)
- put in place a step in the building permit/occupancy certification process to see what the impact of the work would be on the system, and to give feedback early enough to property owners that they could modify their design if needed (Town decision/action)
- be willing and able to place a moratorium on expansion when maximum load is reached (Town decision/action)
- find out if capacity can be increased in the future in any way – not necessary to get a \$ cost on it now, but simply whether or not it physically could be done

2. Sewer update – any maintenance?

Superintendent Bill Borden reports that we have had only one issue since the last sewer meeting: the pump station near Cedar View was struck by lightning three weeks ago and subsequently knocked out an electrical panel, it had to be reset. No other new issues.

3. Easements

Matt Fuller will pull together a few quotes for running a title search on SD#1, so we're operating in full light of legal constraints.

4. Update from Paul on insurance

Suzy Shad started gathering information for the insurance company for the quote.

SD#1 – need a year the tanks were built (Suzy to ask Bill)

Need cost of a new pump (Suzy to call LaPlante)

Cost of a pump to be rebuilt (Suzy to call LaPlante)

5. Paul update – cash fund balance for SD#1

Town Supervisor was not in attendance at this meeting, data is needed for next meeting.

Sewer District #1 Engineering Study

1. Update from KPI and LaBella

From the engineering firm: KPI performed their CTV inspection on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. A thank you to Bill Borden for meeting me on-site to tour the collection system/ pump stations and coordinating with KPI . Their results were sent to LaBella and we are starting the process of reviewing everything. LaBella has started preparing the EPG report, reviewing available information, assembling documents, maps and needed information. We will coordinate with the Town regarding any additional information that we will need for our study along with a copy of the SPDES permit. In summary, we will continue to work on the study, and develop and prepare the Engineering Report. Once we have reviewed the KPI inspection and available information over the next couple of weeks, we will have a timetable for completion of our work.

KPI has sent their invoice to the Town Supervisor, payment will be remitted via the regular voucher process and all receipts and checks will be copied for submission to EFC.

Patrick Keenan: Preliminary verbal report is that PVC pipes, concrete of tanks appear to be in good condition. PK has reached out to Randy Rath (at LGA) to update him; will give them a copy of the engineering report when it's prepared

Sewer District #1 Sewer Line Burial Project

1. No update on discussions with Community Bank (Paul absent). [Paul Ferguson is to reach out to Community Bank to find out exactly how much of an operating reserve they are requiring us to have in place for lending to occur.](#)
2. Patrick Keenan: \$54k for administrative proposal – LaBella will look it over and see if there's anywhere that costs could be reduced in the proposal. [PK to follow up on that.](#)
3. [Patrick Keenan: will ask LaBella to update the construction estimate.](#) 2022 construction cost estimate was \$120k. Costs have increased since original estimate was submitted to Town.
4. [Matt Fuller will get an estimation of bond counsel fees](#) so we can get idea of total cost of project.
5. Project cost to bond out will be: administrative component, construction, bond counsel. A public hearing will occur before financing & contracts are signed.

[Paul Ferguson action item: need tax maps and user list for SD#1](#)

Sewer District #2 General

1. SD #2 Law
See update above on the law

2. Status of district

Bill Borden reports no issues in the district since last meeting.

3. Finances – original loan amount?

Paul Ferguson to get this data.

4. The Lake George Waterkeeper is analyzing Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for 2022 through present as part of a study of Fairy Brook/Sunset Brook and collecting data on water quality.

5. Paul Ferguson to acquire tax maps and user lists for SD#2

Meeting concluded at 8:05pm