

PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

MAYFLOWER ROOM, TOWN HALL

7:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tavares called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Kenneth A. Tavares, Chairman
 Anthony F. Provenzano Jr., Vice Chairman
 John Mahoney, Jr.
 David Malaguti

 Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager
 Derek Brindisi, Assistant Town Manager
 Jonathan Beder, Director of Public Works

Ken Tavares prefaced the Town Manager's Report by saying that the Board has been well informed of the sewer break situation and updated on a daily basis. He stated that the issues change daily and that the Board, Management and Staff are keeping ahead of any problems that arise. He assured everyone that they were all prepared to take on the challenges to come and that they are committed to keep the community informed.

7:03PM - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Sewer Break:

Melissa then presented a slide show update on the sewer breaks to the Board of Selectmen and the public.

She began with a brief history of the sewer system which included the following key points: The sewer system is approximately 4.5 miles long and run through town from Water Street to Camelot Drive. The system has been on line since 2001 and transports 1.5 million gallon of waste water per day. Through pipes that are cement lined ductile iron. She also presented a schematic of the high and low points of the line which is a key point in the failure. She explained that the high points in the pipe lacked chemicals and flow at times which lead to the deterioration. Melissa then outlined the current breaks as follows:

Break One – December 19th adjacent to Route 3 southbound
Break Two – January 27th on Braley Road
Break Three – January 31st on Westerly Road

Melissa then mentioned the state agencies that have partnered with the Town of Plymouth to assist in the sewer breaks and repairs. They are DOR – DLS: Finances and emergency spending, Mass DOT: Property and road closures, DEP – EPS – DMF: Environmental protection, DCAMM: Emergency waiver for bidding, Board of Health and MDPH: Water supply, And State Delegation and Board of Selectmen.

Melissa continued by highlighting the Board of Health's involvement. There are 11 Residential wells ½ mile away from one of the breaks. On an engineering stand point there is no need for a water boil issuance at this time as the ground water flows north away from the spill. The area has been bermed and the spill has been contained and the new connection should be completed on 2/3/16. They also confirmed that Lout Pond and a local Cranberry Bog are not being affected.

The Town Manager then outlined the following key points:

Corrective Actions

- Septic haulers began pumping from Water Street Pumping Station 24/7
- Two Godwin Pumps at 500 gallons per minute were set up at the Pumping Station by the next day to pump wastewater onto trucks to allow faster loading.
- Six trucks were loading from the Water Street Pumping Station and four trucks off loading at the Plymouth Waste Water Treatment Plant simultaneously.

Challenges

- Slowing or stopping flow for work progress
- Use of private haulers at headwaters to load flow and bring to plant
- Identifying containment areas for flow
- Change in pressure each time a bypass is installed
- Uncertainty regarding condition of full pipe
- Project costs
- Weather and exhaustion of equipment

Short Term Plans

- Identify most vulnerable areas
- Mobilize quickly to repair breaks with temporary lines
- Identify other areas of weakness in line
- Stabilize system and complete pipe breach investigation
- Complete full bypass
- Communication to public and agencies
- Consider road issues – boring rather than directional drilling
- Collaborate for a long term solution

Long Term Plans

- Stop flow so that full length of original 30" pipe main can be cleaned and analyzed
- Camera length of that pipe and determine if it can be reused, sleeved or replaced
- Design a redundant system, new path for sewer main through town and run two pipes along existing route

Cost and Funding Sources

- Short Term - \$3+ Million
- Long Term - \$30 to \$50 Million

- State Revolving Funds
- 2% over 20 years
- Massachusetts Clean Water Act
- Work with legislatures for 0%

Public Notification

- Press Release (4) sent to media
- WATD interview for all 3 breaks
- Reverse 911 utilized to inform residents in Braley area
- Daily updates to press starting February 2, 2016
- Partnered with schools on communication outreach

Jonathan Beder added that C. Brito, the contractor that the Town has secured, has handled similar failures in other communities and that they were the perfect choice. They were mobilized within 8 hours of the first break and have had (4) crews working 24 hours per day as (2) crews working 12 hour shifts. He touched on the future boring under Samoset Street and Long Pond Road, stating that each would take 3 days pending State approval. He reiterated that once approved and before work this work has begun they will consider issues such as curbside pick-up and school bus routes.

David Malaguti wanted to make sure that the residents that are currently using continue to try to conserve water during this repair time. He suggested taking shorter showers, flushing only when needed and limit dishwasher use.

Ken Tavares then thanked both Melissa and Jonathan, on behalf of the Board, for their detailed presentations. He went on thank the residents of Plymouth for their patience during this difficult time.

Mr. Tavares said that the Town and the Board’s main concerns are the health and welfare of our residents. He assured everyone that the work was going on 24 hours per day, and that the Town’s staff members are working on studies and analysis to figure out what would best serve the community. Ken went on to say he gives credit to everyone involved for their confidence and that their actions, to date, have been very satisfactory. He is convinced that we are heading in the right direction. Ken also urged the public to pay close attention to what they hear and read from the media, and not to believe any non-official social media comments. He also invited the public to call Town Hall with any questions or concern on this matter.

Chairman Tavares then thanks the Board of Selectmen for their involvement and for accepting many dreaded late-night phone calls. He gave special thanks to Selectmen David Malaguti for his hands-on knowledge and experience.

Mr. Tavares then called upon the other Board members for comment.

David Malaguti took the microphone and thanked the DPW crews as well as others involved and stated that their response to the situation was remarkable. He also stressed how impressed he was that people like David Gould and Dennis Westgate were on site of the 3rd break by 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. David added that DPW crews, Highway crews and all others involved need to be thanked for their team efforts. He went on to show his appreciation to C. Brito and felt that they really know their business well and that they are a huge asset to the Town.

John Mahoney thanked everyone as well. He said he took a tour of the affected areas and expressed his empathy for the residents, as raw sewage was flowing past their homes at that time. He thanked Mr. Beder for his quick and thorough response on Sunday, saying the weather really helped out. Selectman Mahoney went on to say that the original sewer system was over engineered when it was installed and that he would like to see redundancy built into these repairs and hoped that the long-term solution would last anywhere between 50 to 75 years.

Anthony Provenzano Jr., Vice Chairman, likened the money spent to date is similar to what was spent last year on snow removal so urged people to keep that in mind. He expressed that he agreed with Selectmen Mahoney in saying that the long-term repairs need to last a very long time because the costs that will be incurred can be compared to a new school being built.

Selectman Malaguti addressed the Board once more by saying he and Mr. Beder had spoken and agreed that we need to repair what we have, to put in strong plastic pipes so acid and chemicals won't affect them, and use them as a bypass while the man is repaired/constructed. He suggested using (2) 18" pipes for redundancy, saying that one could be cleaned and maintained while the other is still pumping. He also suggested that everyone work together to possibly come up with a new route for the main pipes, stating that if the original route were planned better, in terms of sloping highs and lows, we may not be dealing with these current issues.

7:30PM - PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Richard Serkey took the podium and addressed the Board regarding the Cedarville Landing Agenda item and asked why it was listed in Executive Session. He felt that it was an issue that could have gone to an Open Meeting and again, he questioned the legality of the matter.

Ken Tavares, Chairman of the Board, replied and told Mr. Serkey that the Selectmen and Town Manager did bring the subject to Town Counsel. Ken said that Town Counsel assured them they had the right to take this to Executive Session and that they were within the limits of the law.

Pat McCarthy from Precinct 5 and a Town Meeting Member came to the podium and thanked everyone involved in the sewer crisis and repair. She stated, as a tax payer, senior community member, and a sewer user that she couldn't be more proud of the Town's response. She said that this sewer failure affects everyone from residents to businesses, and that everyone needs to work together. Pat went on to thank the Board of Selectmen, Administrative Staff, and Frank Mand for keeping the public informed.

7:35PM - LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Sean Page and seconded by Anthony Provenzano Jr., the Board approved the Open Meeting minutes from January 26, 2016 and the Executive Session Minutes from January 26, 2016. Voted 2/0 (John Mahoney and David Malaguti abstained)

7:40pm - COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

Chairman Tavares said he had the opportunity to go to Brattleboro, Vermont where he took a tour and met with the Director of Public Works, the Chamber of Commerce and Joe Lynch from Entergy. He appreciated their kindness and willingness to share information regarding the closing and decommissioning of their Nuclear Power Plant. Mr. Tavares stated that he was thrilled to be partnering with Brattleboro and said that joining forces would be of great value to the Town of Plymouth, and was happy to be invited back. Ken said that Brattleboro is much further ahead in the process than Plymouth which gave them the opportunity to bring back information and ideas. Ken also mentioned that he and the others that went on the tour were going to meet within the next week and break down the process into categories, and report back once they've met.

John Mahoney added that he really enjoyed the Brattleboro, Vermont tour as well and that it was time well spent. He also went on to thank the Nuclear Matters Committee for their presentation at the previous Selectmen's Meeting.

Ken Tavares finished by saying that the Nuclear Matters Committee has a lot of responsibility.

7:45PM - OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

David Malaguti talked about some old business regarding Bartlett Brook and Bartlett Pond which receive flow from the old Manomet Landfill. He stated that during coastal storm and high tide the ocean flows into both the Brook and the Pond which in turn deposits sand into both. He said it had been dug out back in the 80's but not properly. He went on to say that David Gould got the proper permits, and Dennis Westgate managed the process of properly digging out the pond and said that they got the flow down by a good foot, which alleviated any issues in the short term. He thanked Betty Costa-Cavacco for talking with land owners around the area and allowing us to travel over their property.

7:54PM - ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Anthony Provenzano Jr. and seconded by John Mahoney, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm to enter Executive Session and to not reconvene into Open Session. Voted 4/0

Executive Session

7:50PM - CALL TO ORDER

Recorded by: Christopher Badot
Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen