

**Town of Westport
Infrastructure Oversight Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2023
6:30 pm**

The in-person meeting of the Infrastructure Oversight Committee (IOC) was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Select Board room at Town Hall. Attending were Steve Ouellette (Chair), Bob Daylor (Vice Chair), Maury May (Clerk), Jerry Coutinho (At Large), Manny Soares (At Large), and Joe Rioux (At Large). Lawrence Holsworth (FinCom) was absent due to a family matter. Joe Amaral (B2B) attended but was not yet appointed/sworn-in. Also attending were Jim Hartnett (ex-officio Town Administrator) and Roger Fernandes (Consultant). A quorum was achieved with six sworn-in members in attendance. In addition, the meeting was well attended by members of the public. [This meeting was originally scheduled for November 8, 2023 but delayed due to posting failure.]

Organizational business:

- **Membership – update.** We now have seven members appointed and sworn in. We will have eight members once Joe Amoral is appointed/sworn-in.
- **Minutes – approval.** The minutes of our last meeting on September 7, 2023 were moved by Maury May, seconded by Manny Soares and approved 5-0-1, with Steve Ouellette, Bob Daylor, Maury May, Jerry Coutinho and Manny Soares voting in favor and Joe Rioux abstaining (not at meeting).
- **Next meeting – scheduled.** We schedule our next meeting for January 24, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Select Board Room [since moved to the Middle/High School auditorium].

Presentation – Roger Fernandes – Update on Route 6 Water & Sewer Project.

1. **Sewer Pump Station.** The design work for two sewer-pump stations is complete. Now undertaking appraisals with eye toward property acquisition.
2. **Interbasin Transfer.** We are proceeding with our request for a Determination of Insignificance from Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Office of Water Resources. Continues to be a sticking point.
3. **Grants/Funding. (1) MassWorks grant.** Our request for \$1.75 million of funding was denied in October. Debriefing on denial will take place on January 9, 2024. Maury May relays question from Rep. Paul Schmid: what are the scoring results of our request? **(2) PFAS (polyfluoralkyl substances) grant.** The Planning Board is pursuing a \$3.75 million grant to extend the current water service by building a loop that (a) extends the existing Route 6 water line eastward by 1,800 feet (part of Phase 2 of the Route 6 W&S project), then (b) turns right onto Greenwood/Osborne Streets for 2,900 feet passing the Macomber School. The plan would bring utility quality water to the Macomber School as well as numerous residences. Mr. Fernandes notes that all grants require some local matching funds. **(3) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan.** Mr. Fernandes has submitted the Project Evaluation Form to the MassDEP as a first step, with results expected in January. The SRF provides loans that would need approval by Town Meeting and ballot box. Warrant article requests/placeholders are due in the Select Board office by January 26, 2024. Mr. May notes that SRF loans at 2% are attractive given the current interest-rate environment.
4. **Development of estimated bid items.** Prepare Invitation for Bid (IFB) contracts for contractors.
5. **Aqueduct Impact Assessment.** Notify Fall River that we are going to install a sewer pipe along Route 6 near its old and unused aqueduct pipe along Route 6. Sections will have to be removed.

- 6. Phase 1C – engineering progress.** Kleinfelder is at 75% completion of the design for Phase 1C. [Our nomenclature is now One Project with Three Contracts.]

In addition, Mr. Fernandes recommends three Action Items:

1. Build a funding model – grants, loans and betterments;
2. Schedule meeting of stakeholders – property owners, Town officials, Fall River; and
3. Prepare for Annual Town Meeting – SRF loan approval and grant acceptance (if any). We have a lot of ground to cover in a very short time.

Macomber water loop - proposal. Bob Daylor reports that a funding opportunity from Mass. Department of Environmental Protection became available to small communities for clean water, specifically for PFAS. Accordingly, after Planning Board review, the Town Administrator has completed the first step in applying for a grant of \$3.75 million to build a water loop.

Additional new business - not anticipated 48 hours in advance. None.

Discussion – among Committee members. Mr. Coutinho asked a question about pumping stations and Mr. Daylor answered it, explaining that our planned sewer route has both gravity and pumping sections. Mr. Soares asks if the design is complete and Mr. Daylor replies that it is. Accordingly, Mr. Soares requests that our Kleinfelder engineers build a model of our water and sewer project for public use to understand our project better.

Public comments.

- **Rui Cordeiro.** He asks, what was the \$1.75 million MassWorks grant request for; the answer was to partially fund Phase 1A sewer. He also asks if Phase 1A is shovel ready; the answer is yes.
- **Rob Machado.** What is the purpose of Phase 1A? Answer: sewer from Fall River to Route 88. He asks about the project phases: #1 runs from FR to 88 and parallels existing waterline; #2 runs from 88 to Bread & Cheese Brook with sewer the entire way and a waterline extension from Greenwood Terrace to B&C Brook; and # 3 runs from B&C Brook to the Dartmouth line with both water and sewer.

Adjournment. Mr. Daylor moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Soares seconded the motion. It passed unanimously by sworn-in members 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

***We plan our next meeting for Jan. 24, 2024
in the auditorium of the Middle/High School at 6 pm.***

Prepared by Maury May, Clerk