

**Town of Westport
Infrastructure Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 6, 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 (Alternate), and Lawrence Holsworth (FinCom). New member Joe Rioux was absent but not notified properly. Joe Amaral (B2B) started the meeting but was called away. Also attending were Jim Hartnett (ex-officio Town Administrator), and Roger Fernandes (Consultant). A quorum of four sworn-in members was declared with members Ouellette, May, Soares, and Holsworth.

Organizational business:

- **Membership – update.** The following members have been appointed and sworn in: Steve Ouellette, Maury May, Manny Soares, Lawrence Holsworth & Joe Rioux. The following members have been appointed but not sworn in: Bob Daylor, Jerry Coutinho & Joe Amaral.
- **Committee – Re-organization.** The following were voted in as officers of the Infrastructure Oversight Committee for FY 2024: Chair Steve Ouellette, Vice-Chair Bob Daylor, and Clerk Maury May. All were voted in unanimously 4-0.
- **Minutes – approval.** The minutes of our last meeting on September 6, 2023 were moved by Maury May, seconded by Manny Soares and approved 4-0, with Steve Ouellette, Bob Daylor, Maury May and Manny Soares voting in favor.
- **Next meeting – scheduled.** We schedule our next meeting for November 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Select Board Room.

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

- **Macomber water loop - proposal.** Bob Daylor reports that a funding opportunity from Mass DEP became available to small communities for clean water, specifically for PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances). Accordingly, after Planning Board review, the Town Administrator has completed the first step in applying for a grant of about \$3.8 million to build a water loop that (1) extends the existing Route 6 water line eastward by 1,800 feet, then (2) turns right onto Osborne Road for 2,900 feet passing the Macomber School, and then (3) turns right again onto Gifford Road and back to Route 6, thus completing the loop. The plan would bring utility quality water to the Macomber School as well as numerous residences.

Old business:

- **Update – planning and permitting.** Roger Fernandes reports the following. First, the MassDOT has approved a Highway Access Permit for work on the Phase 1A sewer plan. Second, we continue to negotiate with property owners to acquire land for a pump station, and ongoing discussions have been positive. Third, the Mass DCR continues to drag its feet on our request for a “determination of insignificance” for our Phase 1A sewer project and the Town is frustrated. Mr. Daylor says that it has been “painful” dealing with the Mass DCR and their Office of Water Resources (OWR) on this permit, and this dealing is in the his “Top 10” of all-time problem cases over a very long career in water engineering. Accordingly, we request that the Select Board write a letter of complaint to the DCR and OWR to try to get the ball rolling. Our state reps – Sen. Rodrigues and Rep. Schmid – will be cc’d on the letter.

- **Update – grants & funding.** Roger Fernandes reports the following on our funding efforts. (1) Federal funding. Our request for a federal earmark of \$5.5 million through the offices of Sens. Markey & Warren has not moved forward, leading to considerable disappointment among IOC members. However, our Rep. Keating continues to work for a small grant of about \$900,000 and we remain optimistic. (2) MassWorks. In early June we filed for a \$1.8 million MassWorks grant. It has been initially reviewed without comment. Grant awards are announced in October into early November. (3) State Revolving Fund (SRF). Westport has applied to the DEP for a loan of \$7,584,000. Mr. Harnett notes that annual principal and interest payments on such a loan would amount to about \$400,000. The final loan amount would be reduced by possible grants, betterments and perhaps some remaining ARPA funds. The loan, which is officially titled a Clean Water SRF loan, requires approval at the Annual Town Meeting.

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 answer 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 the our water and sewer project for the public use to understand our project better.

Adjournment. Mr. Soares moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Holsworth seconded the motion. It passed unanimously by sworn-in members 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Prepared by Maury May, Clerk