



## TOWN OF NORTH READING Massachusetts

### Board of Health

#### North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes October 6, 2022 Teleconference/Virtual

**Members Present:** Gary Hunt, Chairman  
Karen Martin  
Pam Vath

**Others Present:**  
Robert Bracey, Health Agent  
Christine Doolin  
Joe Parisi  
Matt Corbin, Engineer  
Michael Gilleberto, Town Administrator  
Mary Smith  
Suresh Rao

RECEIVED  
2022 JAN 19 AM 9:26  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
NORTH READING, MASS.

#### 7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

#### New Public Health Nurse

Chair Gary Hunt introduce Pamela Merrill, the new Public Health Nurse

#### Mr. Joe Parisi, DPW Director Municipal Wastewater Presentation to Board of Health

Pam Vath and Karen Martin said they would like a general overview and short presentation with a timeline.

Mr. Parisi stated that he would be looking for funding at the special town meeting in December. With funding approved we would get into the final design efforts for the project.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that he has about 19 slides that will give a little of the context about this project

Mr. Gilleberto stated that the concept of public sewer in North Reading has been reviewed over the course of multiple decades in various forms to try and create a public wastewater utility. The Board of Selectmen has been looking to make available wastewater utility for commercial development with the idea of making more land area useable, particularly the small lots along Main Street. The hope is that the increase in economic development can lead to more local services, more local job opportunities for the region and could also make possible more multifamily housing construction along Main Street. A wastewater collection system will help

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promote public health and environmental protection by improving surface and ground water quality, providing sustainable long-term solution for wastewater management and establish sewer service for existing commercial/industrial base. The project history most recent review began in 2014 as part of a larger combined wastewater planning effort. The Town intended to proceed with the MWRA for water and limited wastewater, however due to the significantly higher cost to obtain water from the MWRA compared to expanding our partnership with the Town of Andover, and due to limited capacity at the MWRA compared to Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, the Town elected in 2018 to enter into a 99 year agreement with the Town of Andover for water and to pursue a connection with a sanitary district. The Select Board has limited the proposed first phase to the heavily commercial/industrial areas to minimize the impact on residential property owners.

Karen Martin asked Mr. Gilleberto what the timeline would be for phase 1 and phase 2.

Mr. Gilleberto stated the timeline is to seek funding at a special town meeting December 5, we would submit a design to the Mass Department of Public Transportation a year from then December 2023. They would go out to bid then shortly after for a construction project that is believed to start in the construction season of 2024 and spans two full construction season 2024, 2025 maybe a bit into 2026. There is no timeline set for Phase 2.

Karen asked if the plan is to build the infrastructure to include all of phase 2 flow, but only tie in phase 1 initially.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that's correct!

Mr. Corbin stated the first two years of construction would include underground utilities and drainage which is when we would do the force main gravity and then they still have two more years for sidewalks and restoration of the road. Mr. Corbin stated that the project would probably be done by 2027.

Mr. Rao asked if there would be any downstream limitations that might come up in two years.

Mr. Gilleberto stated we have been told by GLSD the plant has capacity to treat the flow we are seeking to acquire, we would be building the system here in Town and connecting through potentially two other Towns, Andover and North Andover. We will be required to remove inflow and infiltration to that same ratio of four gallons for every one gallon of flow.

Mr. Hunt stated that he personally looks to have improvement in Town for the collection and treatment of wastewater. Mr. Hunt stated that most of the larger systems in Town are dealt with by the DEP.

Mr. Bracey stated that anything over 10 thousand gallons is licensed by the MASS DEP, that would include all the major apartment complexes here in Town and all the major commercial places down on Concord Street.

Mr. Hunt stated that most of the issues that we deal with are mostly residential systems.

Mr. Bracey stated yes, about 95%.

Pam Vath asked at what point will the schools, fire department and library be rolled into this program if at all.

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Mr. Gilleberto stated the planning for this project does not consider including the school facilities and Town Center in this or at a future phase.

Mr. Gilleberto stated there has been work authorized by Town meeting to pursue connecting those buildings to the wastewater treatment plant located at the middle/high school. The plan has the capacity to service many of the municipal buildings and the one that's a big question mark is the Housing Authority because of the flow that it has with the number of residents that it has.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that there is an acknowledgement that we need to do something better with regard to how we handle wastewater in the Town Center.

Pam Vath stated that this proposal seems to be going at record speed.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that we learned in June of 2020 that the state had a substantial reconstruction project going on, on Route 114. This is an opportunity to partner with the State to try and reduce some cost. The deadline that we have all sort of circled around is when we need to give the State our design, for them to fold it into their design and put it out to bid for construction. Mr. Gilberto believes that deadline is December of 2023.

Mr. Parisi stated that he wanted to have a conversation with the Board of Health about any kind of requirements for hooking up to the wastewater system. Mr. Parisi asked the Board is there any sort of regulations in place to deal with sewer connection or what kind of policy approach would the Board of Health have.

Mr. Hunt stated that he will have Mr. Bracey review what's out there and prepare some draft language for the Board to consider and eventually enact a local Board of Health regulation specific to this project.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that we have two Select Board Liaisons to the project, Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Stuto. Mr. Gilleberto thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Hunt stated that this is a very important topic and the Board we will be discussing this amongst ourselves at future meetings.

Mr. Rao stated that it seems to be one area where there may be a lack of choice with the question of opt in or opt out.

Mr. Hunt stated that if we are connecting commercial properties that's one thing but if we are connecting residential properties that's another and it seems that this program is targeting Martins Pond primarily as a residential area initially.

Mr. Hunt stated that trying to get people to buy in and what role does this Board have in trying to encourage them.

Mr. Bracey stated that he would circle around with Mr. Parisi and reach out to some of his colleagues and communities that may have already done what's being requested and will put something together for the Board and the Town Administrator.

The Board thanked Mr. Parisi for his time and hard work.



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Mr. Bracey wanted to congratulate our new Public Health Nurse, Pam Merrill on passing the Maven test.

Mr. Bracey wanted to thank the Town Administrator for his support and guidance in helping reach a contract agreement with Pam Merrill and bringing her on board.

Mr. Bracey also wanted to publicly recognize and thank Pam Vath for all her hard work and for stepping in over the last two and a half years.

Pam Vath said it was a pleasure and very rewarding to serve your own community and thanked Mr. Bracey for the acknowledgement.

For more information about the Wastewater Presentation, please see the attached slides

Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for November 16, at 7:00 PM.

**Pam Vath motioned** *to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.*

**Motion seconded by Karen Martin**

**All members voted unanimously in favor**

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Gary Hunt

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Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Karen Martin

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