

**TOWN OF AUBURN**  
**Minutes of the Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting**  
**Town of Auburn D.P.W. – 5 Millbury Street**  
**February 16, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.**

In-person and by remote participation in accordance with Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022

The Auburn Board of Sewer Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023 in the Conference Room at the DPW Office, 5 Millbury Street, and remotely via <https://global.gotomeeting.com>

Those attending in person were:

Department Staff:

Ms. Joanna Paquin, DPW Director

Mr. Nicholas Schwartz, Assistant DPW Director/Sewer Superintendent

Board Members:

Mr. Thomas Healey, Chairperson

Mr. Wayne Belec, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Mark LaPlante, Secretary

**ITEM ONE-CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 P.M. by the Chairperson, Mr. Thomas Healey.

Mr. Healey announced that the meeting was being operated as a hybrid format under Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022. For the public to join the open meeting remotely by telephone, they can call 1-872-240-3311 and enter Access Code: 244-343-037, or the public can join via computer at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/244343037> All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website [www.auburnguide.com](http://www.auburnguide.com) and the public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda. Mr. Healey stated that the meeting was being recorded by global.gotomeeting.com.

**ITEM TWO –APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 12, 2023 Regular meeting. Mr. Belec motioned to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. LaPlante seconded and it was so voted. Mr. Healey abstained due to his absence from the meeting.

**ITEM THREE- NEW BUSINESS**

A. FY2022 Sewer Use Abatement Applications:

1. 403 Oxford Street: The Board reviewed the sewer use abatement application and supporting documents for 403 Oxford Street. Mr. Belec motioned to approve an abatement of

the bill for 403 Oxford Street down to a minimum bill of \$100.00 per installment. Mr. LaPlante seconded, Mr. Healey voted in favor and it was so voted.

2. 203A Pakachoag Street: The Board reviewed the sewer use abatement application and supporting documents for 203A Pakachoag Street. Mr. Belec motioned to approve an abatement of the Fiscal Year 2022 sewer use bill for 203A Pakachoag Street down to 6,350 cubic feet of water usage. Mr. LaPlante seconded, Mr. Healey voted in favor and it was so voted.

B. Drainlayer License Applications:

1. Morris Excavating Company: The Board reviewed the application and supporting documents from Morris Excavating Company of Leicester, MA. Mr. Belec motioned to recommend issuance of a Drainlayer License by the Board of Selectmen to Morris Excavating Company of Leicester, MA. Mr. LaPlante seconded, Mr. Healey voted in favor and it was so voted.

2. RSI Construction LLC: The Board reviewed the application and supporting documents from RSI Construction LLC of Charlton, MA. Mr. Belec motioned to recommend issuance of a Drainlayer License by The Board of Selectmen to RSI Construction LLC of Charlton, MA with the condition that the Sewer Division is able to validate the reference letters that were provided with the application. Mr. LaPlante seconded, Mr. Healey voted in favor and it was so voted.

Mr. Schwartz mentioned to the Board that there has been some frustration expressed by some of the Drainlayers applying for licenses because the process for obtaining a drainlayer license takes such a long time. Mr. Schwartz stated that he could not find anything in the Regulations or the Charter that required the Board of Sewer Commissioners to approve the applications prior to sending them to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Healey stated that he understood the need to streamline the process, and that it does take a substantial amount of time from the time of the application until the time the license is actually issued, but also felt it was beneficial to have an extra set of eyes reviewing the applications. Ms. Paquin mentioned that there may be a possibility of posting the applications publicly on the website in order to obtain input prior to approving the applications and sending them to the Board of Selectmen for issuance of the license. The Commissioners all agreed that this seemed like an acceptable compromise and agreed that the Drainlayer license reviews did not need to be recommended by the Board of Sewer Commissioners and could be reviewed and recommended by the Sewer Superintendent.

C. Board of Sewer Commissioners Membership Status: Mr. Healey stated that due to his work schedule and other obligations, after his term ends on June 30, 2023 he will be resigning as Sewer Commissioner. Mr. Belec mentioned that he also plans to resign prior to the end of his term, likely later this calendar year due to his extremely busy work schedule.

**ITEM FOUR – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

**ITEM FIVE – ADJOURNMENT**

A. Mr. Healey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 P.M. Mr. Belec seconded, Mr. Healey voted in favor and it was so voted.

**DOCUMENTS:**

The following documents were part of the Board of Sewer Commissioner's Meeting on February 16, 2023 and are maintained in the Sewer Division office:

- Agenda
- Minutes of January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting
- FY2022 Sewer Use Abatement Applications for 403 Oxford Street and 203A Pakachoag Street
- Drainlayer License Applications and supporting documents for Morris Excavating Company and RSI Construction LLC