

**Lost Lake Sewer Committee Minutes**  
**January 9, 2014**

Present: Dr. Horowitz, Board of Health; Thomas D. Orcutt, Water/Sewer Superintendent; John G. Petropoulos, Selectman; Jay Prager, Finance Committee, Michael Rosa, At Large

Meeting was called to order at 6:30

The meeting began with a review of the CEI response to the objections and resulting questions raised by the Committee to its invoice and performance against the Scope of Work (SOW).

- **Regarding Task 2:** Mr. Petropoulos noted that the SOW specified tests for “pollutants comparable to 1989 samples” (note: this references the 1989 Baystate study that served as the basis for the 2012 Fall Town Meeting proposal to fund a fire station). He noted that CEI did not deliver comparable test results. He argued that CEI had failed to perform on the contract and that the missing data left the committee unable to assess changes in phosphate levels and cast doubt on other matters as well. CEI’s noted that the incomparable results were the result of differences in testing methodology and asserted that they were not responsible for the incomparable results because they did not discover that their testing methodology was different than 1989 until after the testing had been done. Mr. Prager agreed with Mr. Petropoulos. Mr. Rosa indicated that his expectation when hiring professionals is that they will take the responsibility to understand the drivers that contribute to the results that they are contracted to deliver and will control for them in order to deliver outcomes that are consistent with their agreement. When we asked them to duplicate the study they should determine how to duplicate the study. He agreed that the invoice could be approved except for Task 2. Dr. Horowitz felt that the answers to our questions were sufficient. Mr. Orcutt felt that the phosphorus testing should be credited.
- **Regarding Task 6:** The committee agreed that this task had been completed
- **Regarding Task 11:** Mr. Orcutt suggested that there should be a meeting with the Selectmen as part of the closeout of this Task. It could help to close the task and would provide value to the BOS and the town. Mr. Prager felt that the issue had run off the rails and that CEI did not owe us anything. Mr. Rosa did not agree that they should be excused. He felt that their answers here were not compliant. Dr. Horowitz chose not to express an opinion. Mr. Petropoulos suggested paying for items of the task that could be itemized as having been completed. He suggested asking for an itemization of the invoice to show which elements were attributed to Task 11.
- **Regarding the Excess in billing over the contracted amount:** The committee agreed that no additional work had been authorized and no additional amount should be paid.
- The Committee unanimously agreed that we should not sign the CEI invoice and asked Mr. Petropoulos to express their concerns to Mr. Haddad.

Mr. Petropoulos asked the Committee what they thought was next for it to do. Dr. Horowitz wanted to discuss the SRF loan. She wanted to know about the whole package. She indicated that she was concerned about the breakdown of the SRF loan and how much goes to runoff and zoning and sewer. She asked Mr. Orcutt if the SRF loan would fund both. Mr. Orcutt indicated that he believed that it would. She indicated that the Board of Health (BOH) believed that the sewer by itself was not the answer. Mr. Woodle who was in the audience asked if the SRF required a specific type of solution for instance a sewer system or could it fund smaller projects like innovative systems. Mr. Orcutt stated that he believed that it would only fund low pressure sewer systems. Mr. Woodle stated that he would like to see some form of exploration of alternative systems. He also asked if there was a loan program to help people who needed help installing systems. Mr. Orcutt and Dr. Howitz indicated that there was such a system in place and that the BOH was the right contact point.

Mr. Petropoulos asked the group to please focus on what it should tackle next.

Mr. Prager stated that we still do not know the problem. Dr. Horowitz stated that she felt that the problem was contaminated wells, Emerging Contaminants and Whitney Well health.

Mr. Petropoulos asked the group how they should continue. He suggested as an example of the kind of thing he was looking for:

- a. Agree on and document our current understanding of the issue
- b. Develop a suggested approach for addressing the problems that are identified in the 'current understanding'

Mr. Rosa noted that we have gone beyond our Charter and suggested that we should make recommendations on future activities. Mr. Prager stated that we need to tie down what the sources are.

Mr. Duger from the audience indicated that Mr. Prager was on the right track. He suggested defining what we know and stated "You aint got a lick of data about the problem in front of you." Steven Maranzini from the audience reminded the Committee that water quality was not necessarily the #1 driver. Many towns implement sewer systems without any water contamination problem as the justification.

Mr. Prager suggested that we come up with a plan to understand:

- The sources of the problem.
- Are the levels problematic
- If they are, how to deal with them

Mr. Orcutt suggested that members email Mr. Petropoulos suggestions for where to go from here.

Mr. Woodle provided a 1973 study. Mr. Orcutt agreed to scan and distribute it.

Dr. Howritz handed out an article on emerging contaminants that she requested members read.

Mr. Petropoulos asked all Members to submit suggestions to him on where the Committee should go from here.

Mr. Rosa motioned to approve the minutes of December 19, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Prager and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 23, 2014 at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

**Action Items**

Mr. Petropoulos to ask Mr. Haddad to work with CEI on the invoice as described above.

Mr. Orcutt to check on our SRF eligibility status.

Mr. Orcutt to scan and distribute the 1973 study submitted by Mr. Woodle.

All Members to email Mr. Petropoulos with suggestions on where to go from here.