

IPSWICH STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary: August 17, 2009

The Stormwater Advisory Committee met in Room B at 5 PM on Monday, August 17, 2009 with the following appointed members in attendance: Pat McNally (BoS Chair), Bob Markel (Town Manager), Glenn Gibbs (Planning), Larry Graham, Bob Gravino (DPW), George Tougas, David Standley (Conservation Commission), and Jim Sperber (Code Enforcement)(late arrival). Ellie Baker of Horsley Witten Group, Consultants to DPW for storm water management, and Rick Clarke (DPW) were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider a proposal prepared by the DPW for the Board of Selectmen to delegate its Permitting Authority under the Stormwater Bylaw for issuance of Stormwater Management Permits ("SMPs") to the DPW. Delegation of that Authority to the Office of Code Enforcement as previously recommended by the SAC and favorably considered by the Board would not take place, under the DPW proposal that would place responsibility for both Connection and Discharge Permits and Storm Water Management Permits in that Department.

Bob Gravino and Ellie Baker presented a proposal consisting of three documents for consideration by the Committee. "Proposed Permit Program Structure for Storm Water Management Permits, Ipswich, Mass.", "Permitting Process and Estimated Level of Effort", and "Estimates of DPW Labor Costs for Storm Water Management Permitting", all dated August 13, 2009. These documents are made part of this meeting summary by reference.

After discussion, a consensus evolved in the committee that this proposed change in delegation of Permitting Authority was appropriate and should be recommended to the Board of Selectmen; that the program proposal was generally sound and well-thought-out, although the Committee had significant reservations about the necessity for staffing increases in the out years; and that the projected level of effort (and the scenario from which it was developed) and the associated fee recommendations were probably excessive, not consistent with previous representations to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee and to Town Meeting, and need to be reassessed.

There was considerable discussion of the creation of a "enterprise fund" or revolving fund to make revenues generated by the program directly available to the Department for expenditure without further appropriation. The Town Manager will be responsible for bringing such a proposal to the Fall Town Meeting. Gibbs suggested that the structure and process for requiring, accepting, expending and accounting for consultant fees is a good model.

Baker proposed to develop an organizational chart identifying the overall Storm Water Management Program.

The next meeting of the Stormwater Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 14 at 5 PM. The Committee will hear from DPW regarding reassessment of staffing and fees, will vote on a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding delegation, and will further discuss the creation of a “revolving fund” and make recommendations for actions at the Fall Special Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

David Standley, Chair