



Town of Oak Bluffs  
**WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**  
17 Pennsylvania Avenue  
P.O. Box 1526  
Oak Bluffs, Ma. 02557  
*Phone 508-693-0343 Fax 508-696-6035*

**Commissioner's Meeting Minutes**

May 18, 2023

**Call to order:**

A monthly commissioner's meeting of the Oak Bluffs Wastewater Department was called to order at 2:08 PM, on May 18, 2021 by Bill Alwardt, Commissioner.

**Oak Bluffs Wastewater Commissioners present:**

Bill Alwardt, Commissioner

Cassandra Bowler, Commissioner

**Oak Bluffs Wastewater Treatment Facility Employees Present:**

Patrick Hickey, Facilities Manager

Bridget Palmieri, Administrative Assistant

**Guests in attendance:**

**In Person:** Anastasia Rudenko - GHD

**Business:**

**Agenda Item #1:** FY23 MVP Permit Level Design Public Presentation by GHD

Exhibits:

1. Dukes County Avenue Pump Station Coastal Resilience Improvements Permit Level Design - Oak Bluffs, MA - Public Presentation, May 18, 2023. Evaluation by GHD Inc.



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Presentation of the Dukes County Avenue Pump Station Coastal Resilience Improvements Permit Level Design by Anastasia Rudenko of GHD to the Wastewater Commission.

#### Summary:

Anastasia Rudenko began that she is an environmental engineer with GHD and this is a presentation of the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) project for fixing the coastal resiliency of the Dukes County Ave. Pump Station, which is a critical pump station in the Oak Bluffs town system and serves approximately 90% of the sewered flow (Commercial and Residential). This is considered a critical project and has been documented in multiple resiliency evaluations. In 2022 the town was awarded an MVP grant to evaluate alternatives to increase coastal resiliency of the pump station. GHD was tasked with looking at these alternative options and develop permit level designs that would be conveyed to the public through discussions about the project and display what the pump station would look like.

#### Discussion/Questions

Anastasia Rudenko described the current pump station and added it would be most cost efficient to construct a new building, instead of raising the current pump station. Anastasia Rudenko and Patrick Hickey, Facilities Manager met with the Martha's Vineyard Campground Meeting Association (MVCMA) to discuss the project. It was determined that the best scenario would be to build the new station while the current station is still operating.

Discussion continued regarding the pump station's location in a 100-year Flood plain, in which there is an 1% annual chance of a flood.

Anastasia Rudenko continued that GHD is presenting three options:

Option 1 is an Elevated Building. During the meeting this afternoon with the Martha's Vineyard Campground Meeting Association, they requested the stairs be put inside, so it looks like a house from the outside and a pitched roof. Bill Alwardt suggested using Azak materials to prevent weathering, to which the group agreed.

Option 2 is a Floodproof Building. Anastasia Rudenko said one negative is there is a lot of operational risk, with a higher point of failure. Also, it is harder to access in a flood. It was agreed by the group that this option is not practical, nor cost effective.

Option 3 is to relocate Critical Electrical Equipment. Patrick Hickey recounted a flood situation involving this option in Edgartown where it failed. Cassandra Bowler commented that this would be an expensive option and not needed, since we have the space.

Anastasia Rudenko said GHD's recommendation is Option 1 - Elevated Building.



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Patrick Hickey recounted the discussion with the MVCMA and said he told them if their aesthetics requests get too expensive most likely the Commission will have push back or that they can contribute to the project.

Discussion continued regarding the 3 options to protect the existing generator. The recommendation is to raise the generator platform to DFE (Designated Flood Elevation).

Additional GHD recommendations are to install a bypass pumping system and to minimize saltwater pumped to Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Presentation Documents will be available on the Oak Bluffs Wastewater Website in English and Portuguese.

Next steps are for Wastewater to apply for the additional grants for permitting and the final design of the preferred alternative. Then MVCMA will be included on the design. In addition, presentations made to the Conservation Commission and DEP (Department of Environmental Protection).

Motion:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cassandra Bowler. The motion was seconded by Bill Alwardt.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Cassandra Bowler -Aye

Bill Alwardt -Aye

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.