

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting
Public Utilities Subcommittee, Budget & Finance Committee
and the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
July 12, 2017
DPS Administration Building – 16C Perry Way
5:00pm**

Present Commissioners: John Tomasz, Robert Cook, Brendan Coffey, Larry Kelley

Staff:

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari
DPS Deputy Director, Wayne Amaral
DPS Business Manager, Kathe Talkington
City Engineer, Jon-Eric White
Sewer Chief Operator, Chris Pratt
Sewer Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo
Water Superintendent, Ted Angelakis
Assistant Water Superintendent, Chris Hood
Water Distribution Manager, Dan Lynch

Guests:

Mayor Holaday
Paul O'Brien, Chief Administrative Officer
Councilor Bruce Vogel
Councilor Sharif Zeid
Councilor Charles Tontar
Councilor Bob Cronin
Andy Port, Planning Director
Frank Giacalone, Health Director
Joe Texeira, Conservation Commission
Doug Gove, AECOM
Eric Kelley, Environmental Partners Group
Dyke Hendrickson, Daily News

1. New/Old Business

A) Evergreen Commons Project Update

Ted Angelakis, Water Superintendent discussed the status of the project.

Work is currently at site 2. Crews are working on the 8" well development. There are also (2) 2.5" monitoring wells.

Work had been on hold to wait on parts. The City has (4) weeks left on the time frame; we must be finished by August 11th. AECOM has been providing oversight and will review results in the coming weeks.

B) West End Easement Update

Jon-Eric White, City Engineer discussed the status of the easements.

Order of taking was submitted to City Council; had 1st reading and 2nd reading will be Thursday and Council will hopefully approve. Design has not yet started.

C) Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Update

Public Utilities Committee was called to order

Budget & Finance Committee was called to order

Wayne Amaral updated the Commission and Council Committees on the project.

He explained bids came in higher than expected; \$1.9 million was expected and the lowest bid came in at \$2.9 million. With contingency and resident engineer, the request for funding will be \$3,377,460.00. We are waiting for additional funding to award to N. Granese & Sons, Inc. the contract. We are hoping to get approval tonight from the Commission and tomorrow at City Council. Councilor Zeid commented that the transfer amount in Council packets shows the old \$1.9 million transfer amount. Ms. Talkington would get the correct numbers to City Council for tomorrow's meeting.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to award the Plum Island Hydrant Replacement project contract to N. Granese & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$ 2,944,555.00 and to accept the amended transfer request of \$3,377,460.00.

Vote: 4 yes

Councilor Zeid asked about the timeline of the project. Mr. Amaral suggested that with materials not ordered yet, he would hope they would get started on prep work 14 days after the contract is signed. Dependent on weather and crews, the work could get started end of summer. A resident engineer has not officially been contracted.

Councilor Zeid asked if work on the Plum Island bridge riverbank work would take place while the bypass was in place. Design is not done yet. Mr. White explained this is where much corrosion has taken place. This work could potentially be added with a change order. The Mayor clarified that the sewer was fixed and water work was a temporary fix. Councilor Zeid asked if they anticipated this work to come out of the settlement fund. It was assumed, but not set. The work is on the radar.

Councilor Vogel asked if there was anything else hanging out there with the project that could be an additional cost. Mr. Amaral could not think of anything and commented that they have been very detailed in the design to avoid additional costs. Mr. White commented that there is the contingency built in as well for unforeseen conditions.

Councilor Zeid asked how bad the asbuilts are. Mr. White commented that they are very poor currently, but the new ones will be great.

Mayor Holaday commented that at the end out August the final \$750,000 will be released by Attorney General's office.

Councilor Tontar asked if it had been a consideration to delay the project. Mr. Amaral commented that it would be a gamble as we do not see any decline in Northeast right now. Mayor Holaday also commented on the status of materials right now. Commissioner Cook commented there may be more problems next year if we wait.

Councilor Tontar made a motion, seconded by Councilor Cronin to recommend approval of the amended transfer for the Plum Island Hydrant Replacement project subject to getting the final transfer order. So voted.

D) Odor Control Project Update

Eric Kelley, Environmental Partners Group discussed the project status.

The first bi-weekly progress meeting was held.

Crews are prepping clarifier 1, installing supports, corrosion coating, waiting on an August arrival of clarifier covers.

Temporary odor control is established and is 4 times what was there. Large carbon vessels are in place.

Commissioner Tomasz asked about odor complaints. There have not been any.

In the next month or so, the drilling for foundation piers for the bio filter will begin taking shape. Councilor Zeid asked if there would be any neighborhood impact. No, there would be usual construction noise during regular hours.

Councilor Zeid had questions about the truck route. There would not be heavy traffic consistently through the process. Consistent traffic is anticipated when placing concrete. The clarifier covers are a single delivery. Commissioner Cook suggested the concrete would be about 60 truckloads over 2-3 months. This would begin just before Labor Day. The route is out through Newbury, using Federal Street.

E) Graf Road Lift Station Update

Mr. Tuccolo discussed the status of the Graf Road Lift Station project.

Tomorrow is the first pre-construction meeting. Sheathing and equipment are on order. Methuen Construction is the contractor the project. Commissioner Cook asked if the contractor would submit a construction schedule tomorrow. Mr. Tuccolo said that they would and he would be happy to email it to the commission tomorrow. Councilor Zeid asked what the changes were when the project went out to rebid. Mr. Tuccolo explained that the mechanicals were condensed into one room and the planned garage was lost. The rail will still extend beyond garage. Trucks will not be stored there in the winter months.

2. Mayor Holaday

Mayor Holaday updated the commission on a new water/sewer commissioner that will be coming on; Sally Friede.

3. Appointments/Customer Issues

Joe Leone, 40 Merrimac Street;

The commission discussed a request from Joe Leone and the Ale House at 40 Merrimac Street. Mr. Leone asked that the I/I fee be put on a payment plan for two years. The issues with this would be tracking the payments and what the recourse would be if they were not paid on time. Ms. Talkington did not think the unpaid fees could be lien against the property. Commissioner Tomasz suggested setting a future date that the payment would need to be made by once the restaurant was up and running.

It was decided that the City would get a legal opinion from K&P as to setting a time frame and recourse for missed payments. The commission would vote at the next meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffey to accept the June 21, 2017 minutes.

Vote: 5 yes

5. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Talkington noted the following in the Business Manager's Report;

- Water and sewer finished FY17 in the black
- June 30th end of year warrants were submitted
- FY17 encumbrances finished up today
- Plum Island Hydrant project transfer will be voted on at City Council tomorrow
- Rate stabilization was approved
- FY18 has begun; first warrants due 8/1

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

6. DPS Operations Reports

Mr. White noted the following on the Engineer's Report;

- The West End easement project discussed earlier was the only water/sewer related update

Mr. Furnari noted the following on the Director's Report;

Commissioner Cook brought up a question about National Grid and running on generators during a brown out and whether National Grid would pay the City to do this. He brought this up at a previous meeting as well. Mr. Furnari would get something in writing to the commission regarding this. Mr. Pratt briefly discussed his previous experience with running on generators during brown outs and would not recommend long term running of generators. Depending on the program offered, it could be difficult to respond and switch with an unstaffed facility.

Mr. Pratt presented the following on the Sewer Report;

- No odor complaints received
- We heard the Odor Control project update from Environmental Partners
- Temporary odor control is working well
- Plant running well on the day to day
- Organic acids and hydrogen sulfide coming into the plant have been high. He has been working with Evoqua on this. They may try to include this under the Methuen Contract for Odor.
- The Pretreatment coordinator is out on Workers' Compensation right now. The previous coordinator, Dave McGrath has stepped up.

Mr. Tuccolo noted the following on the Sewer Superintendent Report;

- Paving of approximately 11,000 feet from the force main project is now taking place
- There is an I/I issue at Savory Street, potentially tidal that they are working on
- Drain line that was clogged behind housing near the sewer plant has been remedied
- 100% online with alarms, working out a few issues.
- There has been an ongoing issue with Plum Island real estate listings with 4 and even 5 bedrooms. Homes cannot exceed 3 bedrooms on the island, unless they did at the time of water/sewer connection. Bedrooms have been added illegally. Mr. Tuccolo has worked with Mr. Furnari and the building department on the issue. The Mayor commented that she is working with City Council on a public record request for building permits from the Town of Newbury. She plans to visit town hall tomorrow to discuss. We need a coordinated effort. Commissioner Cook asked if this might be a K&P question on recourse. The Mayor asked that she be copied on correspondence starting now. She would contact K&P on the issue.

Mr. Lynch noted the following on the Water Construction Report;

- Hale Street had been the main focus. They went with plan B of adding a hydrant due to bacteria testing not passing. Paving will continue and the church will be tied in after.

Mr. Angelakis noted the following on the Water Operations Report;

- Pumped 61 million gallons in June; daily average of 2 million gallons
- Reservoirs are 100% full
- Evergreen update above; assisting where they can with crews
- Plant maintenance
- Working with a GE representative on the ATS power issue.
- DEP on site testing
- Northeast Systems on SCADA

Doug Gove of AECOM spoke about the bathymetric study status

The study was completed by CR Environmental. AECOM now has results that they will compare to the 1998 study. In general volumes are similar. They are updating the safe yield and finalizing data.

Commissioner Cook asked if the Planning Department has looked to future developments. Mayor Holaday the next step is to work with Planning

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffey to accept the reports as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

7. Sewer Pretreatment Report

See above – Chris Pratt update

8. Executive Session

None

9. Confirm Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held at 5:00pm at 16C Perry Way;

Wednesday August 9, 2017

Vote: 4 yes

10. Warrant Contract Signing

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the warrants as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to adjourn the meeting at 6:10p.

Vote: 4 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan