

**Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners**  
**September 19, 2016**  
**Wastewater Treatment Facility**  
**4:30pm**

**Present Commissioners:** John Tomasz, Robert Cook, E. Larry Kelley, Roger Jones, Brendan Coffey

**Staff:**

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari  
Business Manager, Kathe Talkington  
City Engineer, Jon-Eric White  
Water Distribution Manager, Dan Lynch  
Assistant Water Operations Superintendent, Chris Hood  
Sewer Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo  
Sewer Chief Operator, Chris Pratt  
Assistant Sewer Chief Operator, Jim Moore

**Guests:**

Robert Rafferty, Environmental Partners  
Attorney Lisa Mead  
Ted Jones, 18 Dawes Street  
Councilor Sharif Zeid  
Boyd Drive Residents

**1. Mayor Holaday**

Not present

**2. Appointments/Customer Issues**

*-18 Dawes Street*

Ted Jones of 18 Dawes Street has had a re-occurring problem with sewer backups for approximately 25 years. A plumbing contractor cleans out his sewer line once every year and it only resolves the problem for a short time. Ted Norton, contractor, also replaced clay pipe from the house to the street in an attempt to keep tree roots out. This seemed to help for a while, but problems came back. Jamie Tuccolo had a camera run down Dawes Street in an effort to see if there was an issue in the street. Unfortunately, with a sag in the line, they were only able to camera so far. Mr. Jones also brought up a smell coming from the catch-basin believed to be sewer gas.

Mr. Jones wanted to know when the Dawes Street sewer main is scheduled to be replaced. If in the near future, he would wait to see if his issues persist. If the line would not be replaced in the near future, Mr. Jones asked that exploratory work be done to find out what may be causing the issues.

Mr. Tuccolo responded to Mr. Jones that they will likely replace the Dawes Street sewer main in FY19. Mr. Tuccolo believes the issue is within the resident's own sewer line, as when the line is snaked out, the issue goes away. Mr. Tuccolo offered to camera the line at 18 Dawes Street in the upcoming weeks and report back to the board next month. Mr. Jones and the Board were agreeable to this plan.

*-15 Pond Street*

Resident did not attend meeting

*-Proposed Evergreen Commons development*

Commissioner Tomasz asked residents on Boyd Drive to keep comments brief, as the Board has not yet received anything to review on the project.

David Marino, 7 Boyd Drive

Mr. Marino submitted a packet of documents to the Board. Residents on Boyd Drive are quite concerned with well #2 and possible contamination when land is disturbed for development.

Peter Hatcher, 15 Boyd Drive

Mr. Hatcher had the same concerns on disturbing land and well contamination.

Attorney Lisa Mead

Ms. Mead noted that the Planning Board has jurisdiction subject to comments. A hydrological study was done and AECOM has been contracted to do a peer review of the report. The Planning Board meets Wednesday evening.

*-Request to allow outside watering*

Chair of Tree Commission, Chris Miller

Mr. Miller appeared to request that the commission be allowed to water certain trees through the Mandatory Level 2 Water Ban. The commission plant a tree and cares for it for two years. They are asking for approximately 15,000 gallons, which will allow them to water approximately 130 trees until the end of October. After discussion, the Board decided to be air on the conservative side and not allow watering on a case by case basis.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

*Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the August 22, 2016 minutes as amended.*

*Vote: 5 yes*

### **4. Business Manager's Report**

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

- consumption is up on average this year
- in the red for revenue as large bills are paid in the first quarter
- we received \$9000 in sold solar credits
- busy in the process of moving to new DPS building
- lien notifications are to go out in early October

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

*Vote: 5 yes*

### **5. DPS Operations Reports**

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

- interviewing for HEO positions in water/highway
- commended staff for busy few months
- pretreatment audit with EPA now in progress

*Mr. White noted the following on the Engineering Report;*

- The new DPS building is progressing. Some will move in over the weekend and the Business Office plans to move in next week.
- Need to purchase kitchen appliances for new DPS building
- West End Easement project – 6 proposed easements sent to abutters.

*Mr. Tuccolo noted the following on the Sewer Operations Report;*

- Graf Road force main project - at 5000 linear feet. They have hit 7 unknown water services/mains and 7 drains - all active, making the project move slower than anticipated. Completion date is set for late November. Commissioner Cook asked if they would pave in the spring. Yes, they would
- Graf Road lift station - borings came back, waiting on design
- Plum Island alarm project – Northern Blvd inner and outer is set to take place in November. Airvac is to come out 2 weeks earlier.

*Mr. Lynch noted the following of the Water Construction Report;*

- The was a water main break on High Road recently
- There was a service leak this weekend on Toppans Lane that will be wrapped up tomorrow
- Tenneys Ct main replacement is being buttoned up; bacteria testing came back negative, service work will be starting
- The Department has been enforcing the water ban

*Mr. Hood noted the following on the Water Operations Report;*

- West Newbury is back online after losing vacuum and relying on Newburyport water
- 2.2 million gallons less were pumped in August than July
- Bartlett Pond house – pump sent to be rebuilt
- bids are out to have wells purged and cleaned. Barry Miller was awarded the project that will happen sometime this fall
- Indian hill valve house –welders from DPS did a great job on repairs

*Mr. Moore noted the following on the Sewer Pretreatment Report;*

- Chris Pratt, new Sewer Chief Operator was introduced.
- Odor complaints – In early August permanganate was introduced, which helped
- The filamentous problem has cleared
- Repairs to a break in the clarifier rake are bring made
- Blower leaking some oil, down to three
- Diffuser people were in to go over maintenance

*Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to accept reports as presented.*

*Vote: 5 yes*

## **6. Sewer Pretreatment Report**

Jerry Cronin is sampling industries. Jamie Tuccolo is working with the Board of Health on new FOG (Fats, Oils, Grease) limits. A pretreatment audit is now underway with EPA.

## **7. New/Old Business**

**Environmental Partners – Odor Control Improvements Project** - Robert Rafferty updated the Board on the project;

*Last Week*

### **Environmental Partners:**

- Met Methuen Construction on site for preconstruction planning and walked through the construction process.
- Reviewed Methuen Construction's final submittals, including the ferric chloride control panel and fiberglass platforms for the ferric shed.
- Observed the driller's operations and catalogued soils and groundwater conditions.
- Met with our HVAC and electrical subconsultants to finalize the biofilter fan and duct sizing, and overall scope of work.
- Received and reviewed the new Biorem proposal for equipment selection.
- Began specifications development for the clarifier covers and biofilter system.
- Finalized the contract for the odor panel analysis and dispersion modeling.
- Obtained budgetary information for potential temporary odor control systems during construction.
- Finalized the site visit schedule with the clarifier cover representatives (week of September 19) and delivered specific requirements and requests for information.

### **Methuen Construction:**

- Continued its submittal of shop drawings for equipment.
- Arrived on site on Wednesday for preconstruction layout and planning.
- Ordered equipment.

*This Week*

### **Environmental Partners:**

- Finalize the contract for the odor panel analysis and dispersion modeling.
- Schedule clarifier cover representative visits to the plant beginning September 19 to allow the new chief operator to attend.
- Schedule visits to area facilities with clarifier covers for operators to discuss pros and cons and understand design issues.
- Obtain budgetary information for potential temporary odor control systems during construction.
- Meet the driller on site and provide a geologist for fulltime drilling observation 9/14-9/16.
- Finalize base mapping and clarifier drawings. Draft specifications for clarifier covers.
- Meet with subconsultants to finalize the odor control duct sizing, and biofilter fan/blower building layout, location, and dimensions.

### **Methuen Construction:**

- Finalize equipment orders.
- Prepare for mobilization.

*Status of critical path items:*

1. Ductwork layout in the new blower building: Will be finalized week of 9/19.
2. Clarifier bridge removal: This will be finalized with operations staff during the vendor visits.
3. Headworks supply fan location: Design is in its initial stages.
4. Identify equipment pre-purchase possibilities: EPG is developing separate bid packages for the pre-purchase of the clarifier covers and the Biorem system.
5. Schedule the driller for the soils investigation: Driller completed work on September 15.

**Mandatory Level 2 Water Ban**

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to implement a Level 2 Mandatory Water Ban effective immediately.*

*5 yes*

The Board asked about reverse 911 to notify residents of mandatory water ban. Mr. Furnari would look into this. In the past we have not been able to use the system for this type of notification.

The Board asked for a spreadsheet of costs to better understand the \$5.5 million awarded to the City for the Engineering Firm failing to oversee the Plum Island Water and Sewer Construction project.

**8. Executive Session**

None

**9. Confirm Next Meetings**

The next meetings will be held at 4:30p;

October 17, 2016

November 28, 2016

*Vote: 5 yes*

**10. Warrant Contract Signing**

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the warrants presented.*

*Vote: 5 yes*

**11. Adjournment**

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

*Vote: 5 yes*

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan