

**Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners  
July 22, 2016**

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Wastewater Treatment Facility  
115 Water Street

**Present:**

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

**Staff:** Director, Anthony Furnari; Business Manager, Kathe Talkington; Water Distribution Manager, Dan Lynch; Assistant Water Operations Superintendent, Chris Hood; Assistant Sewer Chief Operator, James Moore; City Engineer, Jon-Eric White

**Guests:** Councilor Tom O'Brien, Resident Steve Mangion

**1. Mayor Holaday**

Not present

**2. Appointments/Customer Issues**

Boyd Drive Residents – See new/old business

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the June 20, 2016 minutes.

Vote: 5 yes

**4. Business Manager's Report** – Kathe Talkington, Business Manager

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

- Finished the year in the black
- Rates stayed the same
- FEMA money – to be used to help with work on Plum Island alarms for sewer
- Preparing for September move

Vote to accept the report as presented: 5 yes

**5. DPS Operations Reports** – Anthony Furnari, Director

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

- We will be requesting that the commission approve a voluntary water ban
- Update on the admin building – there has been an issue with flooring holding things up
- Bob Bradbury retired and Jim Moore is filling in as Chief Operator. They have had interviews and narrowed down to three candidates. Joe Dugan has also been consulting.

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

- On July 8th there was an issue on Blue Hill Ave, sewer vacuum losing pressure. Wind River was called in to keep valve pits clean which prevented backups. The leak was located and repaired.
- Hale Street force main started, near Malcolm Hoyt now. Road closures for a couple of days with traffic detours traffic.

Commissioner Tomasz asked about the delay with the Graf Road Lift station design and Mr. Furnari responded they hope to get it done by end of year.

Vote to accept the reports as presented: 5 yes

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

-Jerry Cronin is now Pretreatment Coordinator. He is putting together a handout to restaurants on how to handle FOG and a possible change in limits. Industries are going smoothly.

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

-There were three odor complaints, better in July. There had been an issue with filamentis Filamentis and a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) probe replacement. They will be having the blower company in to equalize system.

Commissioner Tomasz asked for an update with Environmental Partners and Methuen Construction. Mr. Furnari noted Methuen Construction are finishing a job in Hyannis. They have a contract signed and with K&P.

Vote to accept the reports as presented: 5 yes

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

-Update on the Harris street main replacement - Bacteria and pressure tested fine. Six services, tie in to Park Street, and a hydrant installation remain. They should complete in the next two weeks.

-Received new roller

-Dig Safe markouts – 709 dig safes since January – a lot of activity

Vote to accept the report as presented: 5 yes

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

-Looking to implement voluntary water ban. A 90% capacity is needed to do this, and today we are at 91%.

-Few yellow water complaints – pumps have been turned up gradually, which could cause this

-Resident on Murphy Ave has complained multiple times regarding yellow water. Staff will stay in contact.

-Enpro was in to clean alum tanks (this happens once every 3-5 years)

-Sludge removal will happen in the fall – They will have Agresource in to do some testing

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to implement a drought watch/voluntary water ban.

Vote: 5 yes

This will be posted on the City website and in the newspaper.

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

-West End Easement Update

-video inspected about 80% of sewers – most looks very good with exception of small sags, not even halfway up pipe. No deformities. Did not inspect the force main – not recommended and could do damage.

-Access Roads proposed – 2 access roads, north and south.

- North Access - recommend installing. There is no immediate rush, but we should do it now while funds are available. Only one property is affected at 237 Storey Ave. If we do not install and the force main were to go, it would take weeks to get in there. We will be better suited.
- South Access– not worth at this time. The gravity line is in great shape.

The funds are there for the North Road. Still have to meet with property owners.

The Commissioners discussed taking the South Road off the table, and tightening up the North Road, starting with talking to affected resident.

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook continue with North Road only, contact those affected, and go with appraised values.

Vote: 5 yes

Vote to accept the report as presented: 5 yes

## **6. Sewer Pretreatment Report**

See DPS Operations report

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

*Steve Mangion, Resident of PI, Newbury*

Mr. Mangion attended the meeting to express concern/gain a better understanding of;

- Charges to Newbury residents
- New DPS building on Perry Way
- Upgrades of the force main to promote growth in Newburyport
- The intermunicipal agreement between Newbury/Newburyport
- Retained earnings

Commissioner Kelley explained the meaning of retained earnings; money set aside for capital outlays over a period of time and helps to maintain rates. Water/Sewer operates as an enterprise fund. Commissioner Cook also noted that there was no increase for FY17 rates.

Commissioner Cook commented that the force main project is not to promote development per say; we are currently at capacity. Mr. Furnari added the force main is inadequate currently. The City has also expanded sewerage in Newbury to Town Hall, Withington Street, and school.

Commissioner Tomasz commented on the DPS building being built and used by the water/sewer team. Though it may not benefit the resident personally, it will be beneficial as a whole.

*Boyd Drive*

Councilor O'Brien represented the residents in his ward on the issue of a proposal to build new homes off of Boyd Drive. Concerns included contamination of well #2. Neighbors may be in attendance at a future meeting.

Commissioner Kelley commented on the sand pit, storm water control, and pressure problems in the past.

*Cashman Park Public Restrooms*

Ms. Talkington mentioned the restroom comfort station for the public built by developers as part of the plans for the Condo project by Cashman Park. This water will be metered. The project will be requesting not to pay for connection and meter fees because it will be for public use.

Commissioner Cook asked about the Harbormaster pump boat. Mr. Furnari will look into this.

**8. Executive Session**

None

**9. Confirm Next Meetings**

The next meetings will be held at 4:30 at 115 Water Street;

August 22, 2016

September 19, 2016

Vote: 5 yes

**10. Warrant Contract Signing**

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the warrants.

Vote: 5 yes

**11. Adjournment**

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm.

Vote: 5 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan