

**Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners**  
**March 21 2016**

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

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

**Present:**

**Commissioners:** Chairman John Tomasz; Commissioners Roger Jones, Robert Cook, Brendan Coffey

**Staff:** Anthony Furnari, DPS Director; Bob Bradbury, Chief Operator; Kathe Talkington, Admin. Office Manager; Jon-Eric White, City Engineer, Tom Smolski, Superintendent Water Operations; Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager; Jim Moore, Pre-Treatment Coord.; Jamie Tuccolo, Collection System Superintendent; Diane Gagnon, Assistant engineer

**Guests:** Councilors Jared Eigerman, Sharif Zeid, Bruce Vogel; Bob Rafferty, Environmental Partners; Dyke Hendrickson

**1. Joint Meeting With Public Utilities Sub Committee**

**a) Odor treatment plan update/discussion**

Bob Rafferty, Environmental Partners, reviewed the status of the Odor Treatment Project noting the following:

- Phase 1 costs should be calculated by end of week
- Staff will complete short-term improvements, i.e., screenings bagger, carbon filter on grit vent, selected process upgrades
- Phase 1 improvements (Spring 2016) include ferric chloride dosing to force main, sodium hypochlorite re-activation, and septage receiving upgrades
- Phase 2 improvements (Summer 2016) include biofilter work, clarifier covers, ventilation and odor control duct upgrades
- Clarifier covers are 55-feet in diameter and are too large for flat covers
- Aluminum covers are recommended and can have a rib-finish to help reduce glare
- Covers could have 20 – 26 week delivery
- Truck bay needs air circulation system
- Current duct work not large enough causing fans to use too much horsepower
- Budget on track for materials and design
- Chemical Feed and Septage Upgrade specs will be completed next week and out to bid in April – work could be done by summer
- Improvements to Ferric Chloride should help to eliminate odors
- Updated plans will be presented at next meeting

**b) Graf Rd. lift station status update**

Tony Furnari and Jamie Tuccolo reviewed the status of Graf Road lift station and noted the following:

- Meeting tomorrow with Russell Stiles to discuss purchasing property
- Funds to purchase property from Sewer Division operating budget
- Access to lift station will be from New Pasture
- Construction should take approximately one year

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to authorize the purchase of a **portion** of the property known as **1 New Pasture Road (Map/Lot 82-3-B)**(attached) at a cost not to exceed \$32,000.00.

Vote: 4 yes

Jamie Tuccolo reviewed the status of the Hale Street Force Main project and noted the following:

- request Commission's approval to bond \$2.751M for replacing the Hale St. force main
- old force main (asbestos-lined cement) will be abandoned in place
- traffic plans will be prepared prior to start of work
- life span of new force main – approximately 50 years

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones authorized a \$2.751M bond request for the Hale Street Force Main project.

Vote: 4 yes

c) Capital improvement plan/upcoming necessary major projects

Mr. Furnari noted that the Commission and staff are in the process of reviewing Capital Improvements as part of the ongoing budget process.

d) Water/Sewer rates goals/forecasts/ideas

Mr. Furnari noted that all three (3) sewer projects will be on one bond. Mr. Furnari added that the bond could have an average increase per year of \$82.00 based on an annual consumption of 7,750 cf.

e) Plum Island water/sewer updates (# of frozen pits, etc.)

Mr. Tuccolo noted that to date there has been four freeze-ups on Plum Island this winter – all on Northern Blvd. All valve pit covers have been insulated. Diversion and Gauge valves raised out of low lying areas on Northern Blvd expediting operators finding leaks, rest of Plum Island will be completed this summer.

f) West-End Easement

Jon-Eric White reviewed the status of the West End Easement project and noted the following:

- final access road design
- redesign of surfaces to balance the earthworks
- obtain temporary easements for construction
- fix flaws with existing permanent easements

Joint meeting with Public Utilities Sub Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.; regular Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting continued.

**2. Mayor Holaday**

Not in attendance

**3. Appointments/Customer Issues**

None

**4. Old/New Business**

Whittier Group – Port Rehab Construction

Alexia Abowitz, Whittier Health Network, reviewed the planned new skilled nursing facility to be built on the corner of Hale and Low. This facility will replace the existing building which consists of 102 beds. The facility will consist of 123 beds and will mirror their Masconomet Health Care Center in Topsfield.

Mr. Tuccolo and Mr. Furnari have met with the Whittier Group to discuss fees. The Whittier Group will pay the I/I fee in full and is requesting a discussion of the betterment fee.

Mr. Tuccolo noted the Low Street Betterment Fee is based on gallons per day (gpd) with a range of 60 gpd, 110 gpd, 150 gpd. The Commission discussed the options.

Commission Cook made a motion, seconded by Commission Jones to reduce the Low Street Betterment Fee from 150 gpd to 110 gpd. The water consumption will be reviewed after the first year of full occupancy. If the gpd averages at 60 gpd, then the assessed Low Street Betterment Fee would be adjusted as a credit on the water/sewer usage bills. This agreement would be approved by legal and signed by the Whittier Group and DPS Sewer Division.

Vote: 4 yes

Connection of Non-Newburyport Buildings and Dwellings to the Newburyport Sewer System Policy

Jamie Tuccolo reviewed the proposed revisions to the current policy. Commissioner Cook noted that he liked the current policy without any changes. Mr. Tuccolo noted that the current system has enough capacity to handle an increase in connections. He added that there are approximately ten houses that could potentially connect.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to approve the revised policy.

Vote: 4 yes

**5. DPS Operations Report – Anthony Furnari**

Mr. Furnari presented the DPS Operations Report noting the following items:

- DPS building on schedule with anticipated June 1<sup>st</sup> occupancy
- DPS building is not LEED certified
- West-End Easement
  - finalizing access road design
- Inn Street Fountain Project
  - project ongoing
- Hale Street/Graf Road Force Main
  - working with BETA – design at beginning stages
  - concept design done
  - finalizing purchase of property
- Water Distribution working with MPH Environmental on base map for utilities for State and Water Streets for future water main replacement
- Water Distribution working with AECOM on directional drilling across Rt 1
- Water Distribution preparing to replace water main on Harris Street from State to Green Streets
- Reservoirs at 97% capacity
- Preparing for trial run of running Water Treatment Plant unmanned on weekends

Tom Smolski noted that the Sportsmen’s Club has requested that boats be allowed in the reservoir. Mr. Smolski requested the Commission confirm that boats, including canoes, are not allowed in the reservoir.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commission Tomasz to confirm that boats are not allowed in the reservoirs.

Vote: 4 yes

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commission Cook to accept the DPS Operations Report as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

**6. Business Manager’s Report – Lisa Valcich**

Accepted as presented

**7. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the February 22, 2016 minutes as presented.

Vote: 4 yes

**Confirm Next**

April 25, 2016

May 23, 2016

**8. Warrants and Contract Signing**

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the March 1 and March 15 and February 15 warrants as presented

Vote: 4 yes

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commission Tomasz to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Vote: 4 yes

Submitted by:

Kathe Talkington