

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
August 22, 2016
Wastewater Treatment Facility
4:30pm

Present Commissioners: 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
Water Operations Superintendent, Tom Smolski
Assistant Water Operations Superintendent, Chris Hood
Sewer Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo
Assistant Sewer Chief Operator, Jim Moore

Guests:

Councilor Jared Eigerman
Councilor Sharif Zeid
At Large Councilor Bruce Vogel
Robert Rafferty, Environmental Partner
Dyke Hendrickson, Daily News

The Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting was called to order. Councilor Jared Eigerman introduced the joint meeting with the City Council Public Utilities Subcommittee. The first four items on the agenda are related to the joint meeting.

1. Odor Control Improvements Project

Robert Rafferty of Environmental Partners, the City's engineer on the Odor Control Improvements project took the lead with questions from Councilors. Mr. Rafferty explained that there are two phases; phase one has been awarded to Methuen Construction and should be finished by the end of September. This phase involves adjusting chemical dosages. Phase two is larger and in the design phase currently and will likely go out to bid in January. It involves a new biofilter, clarifier covers and duct work. Odor control measures were cut from the recently completed Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Councilor Eigerman asked for explanation on Plum Island and odor control. Mr. Rafferty explained that this is one of the most odorous parts of our sewer system, as waste travels three miles with no oxygen. The sewer department is now adjusting chemical dosing as this waste arrives at the plant location. Due to the corrosiveness of chemicals such as ferric chloride, timing and dosage must be carefully monitored. Introducing oxygen at points in the system was discussed, but could be a safety hazard for employees.

Mr. Rafferty went on to say that the majority of the odor control improvements will be addressed by Memorial Day 2017. The biofilter will have a 10 year warranty, general construction will have a one year warranty, and duct work will have a one year warranty and 50 year life expectancy. Due to the function of the Wastewater Treatment Facility, some odors will still be detected. A discussion of measuring

success of the improvements ensued. A human odor panel of 'professional noses' for detectability was suggested. Councilors recommended even a residential odor panel to establish a baseline. There is a baseline established at the plant itself as far as parts per million of hydrogen sulfide released.

Biofilter and clarifier definitions were explained by Mr. Rafferty to help residents better understand the work needing to be done. Mr. Moore further explained biological processes used at the WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant) and the delicate balance of treating the waste without harming the process.

Residents expressed the following concerns;

- suggestion to add a weather station, or a wind sock to warn residents of weather changes that may affect odors
- when odor improvement will be noticed
- planning for growth within the City and strain on sewer system
- unhealthy/harmful odors
- length of process to get the project moving

2. Plum Island Sewer Valve Pit Monitoring System Capital Project

Valve pits on the Plum Island Vacuum system are not currently alarmed, making it difficult to trace issues. Phantom alarms resetting themselves have also been an issue. The new system that will be installed will be battery operated, easily traced, and remotely accessed. There will be 25 small cellular towers placed on Plum Island (hopefully no easements will be needed). Approximately 650 valve pits will be alarmed by Thanksgiving 2016. A second Plum Island Operator is being added to the Sewer staff. The cost of the alarms is approximately \$600,000 and would be fully covered by a FEMA grant that the City received.

3. Plum Island DEP Consent Order, MEPA Certificate, and Intermunicipal Agreement with Newbury.

There is a list of buildable lots on Plum Island as of September 30, 2000. The MEPA document allowed for the addition of one bedroom, without exceeding three bedrooms. Dan Lynch and Jamie Tuccolo sign off on any building permit involving bedroom changes, and it is also up to the building code enforcement officer to monitor any violations.

The City of Newburyport has an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Newbury. This has been rewritten and tightened up and is in review with the Mayor.

4. Water Use Restrictions (Munic. Code Sec 14-20)

Chris Hood has been running the Water Treatment Plant while Tom Smolski has been out. We have invoked water use restrictions in 2002, 2010, and 2012. 2002 and 2012 were mandatory, 2012 because of the clearwell work. As of the last meeting in July, the City invoked a voluntary water restriction. We are currently at 83% capacity and the percentage for mandatory restrictions is 75%. It is suggested that the Board vote tonight to invoke mandatory level 1 water restrictions. Groundwater and wells are not considered in these percentages.

West Newbury is at will and have already invoked a mandatory water ban. Newbury is perpetual with the Act of 1908.

Dan Lynch discussed looking into the future as far as water. There is a tech review committee that meets each month to discuss upcoming large projects within the City. The City currently has 600,000 gallons per day in reserves, determined by limits the Plant can pump each day. We are able to drill for new water wells, for instance in Newbury, but have been unsuccessful in the past.

5. Mayor Holaday

Not present

6. Appointments/Customer Issues

None

7. Approval of Minutes

Edit on page 2 –add ‘design’ after Graf Road Lift Station.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the July 22, 2016 minutes.

Vote: 4 yes

8. Business Manager’s Report

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

- Approximately 12% through the year
- Debt and Personnel services are over currently, due to big expenses paid early in the fiscal year (retirement, workers comp, debt etc)

9. DPS Operations Reports

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

- New Sewer Chief Operator to start mid-September (Christopher Pratt)
- Two preparing to take D2 exam
- New safety committee for water, sewer, highway forming
- Job Opening – HEO D2, employee leaving to another municipality
- New Business Office Administrative Assistant to start September 6, 2016 (Jennifer Sullivan)

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

- Having pretreatment audit for the first time in eleven years

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

- Harris Street main replacement completed on time
- Tenneys Court main replacement now beginning
- Working on hydrant repairs
- Worked around Bartlett Pond per Conservation Commission

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

- Agresource in this month. Sludge to be hauled in Fall
- Sampling for cryptosporidium in surface water
- Request to implement a Level 1 Mandatory Water Restriction

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to implement a Level 1 Mandatory Water Restriction effective 8/23/16.

Vote: 4 yes

Mr. White noted the following on the Engineering Report;

- DPS Admin Building - Humidity held up flooring installation. Stormwater control structures are in, interior work is continuing, furniture ordered. October 1, 2016 move in date is anticipated
- West End Easement – Easement language has been sent to Kopelman and Paige for review. Will then meet with abutters. Design is just about complete
- Spring Lane drainage – will be keeping gravel from staging area of bridge work. Trees, loam and vegetation could be added. A 50' loss over 35 years has occurred

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

- Force Main project beginning. Gas line was hit early on, slowed continuation. Now working 12 hour days.
- Traveled to AIRVAC/Bilfinger with Mr. Furnari regarding Plum Island vacuum system

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

Vote: 4 yes

10. Sewer Pretreatment Report

See Operations Reports

11. New/Old Business

- Cashman Park Public Restrooms are being put in by the developer working on the condominium project next to the park. The restrooms will be for public use and the developers are requesting connection and meter fees be waived.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to waive connection and meter fees for the new Cashman Park public restrooms.

Vote: 3 yes, 1 no(Kelley)

- The caustic shed at the Water Treatment Plant is in need of a heated building. Chris Hood, Tony Furnari and Tom Smolski will meet on this to discuss cost.

- The Boyd Drive golf course/housing development project is now with the Planning Board. The Engineer wants to have a meeting with staff and AECOM to discuss the project, #2 well, and drainage issues.

12. Executive Session

None

13. Confirm Next Meetings

The next meetings will be held at 4:30p at 115 Water Street;
September 19, 2016
October 17, 2016

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

Vote: 4 yes

14. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 4 yes

15. Adjournment

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting at 7:10p.

Vote: 4 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:
Katie Mahan