

**Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2013**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Wastewater Treatment Facility – 115 Water Street

Present:

Board: Commissioners Erford Fowler, Roger Jones, John Tomasz

Staff: Tony Furnari, DPS Director; Paul Colby, Superintendent Water Operations; Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager; Lisa Valcich, Business Manager; Kathe Talkington, Administrative Office Manager

Guest: Erica Vartabedian; Pieter Hartford, OPM

1. Customer Issues

Highland Ave

Erica Vartabedian, a Highland Ave resident, reviewed for the Board the ongoing issues residents have experienced with discolored water. Ms. Vartabedian noted that the problem started 3 to 4 years ago and added that the water service line from the street to her house was replaced in an effort to alleviate the problem. Ms. Vartabedian added that most neighbors have experienced the same issue. Samples of the discolored water were shown.

Dan Lynch noted that work on replacing the water main from Toppans Lane to the first hospital parking lot is starting. The plan is to finish by the end of November. Mr. Lynch added that the discolored water issue seems to have started when work was done at the hospital.

Paul Colby noted that the houses at the lower end seem to be the ones with the problem.

Ms. Vartabedian thanked the Board for listening to her concerns.

Delinquent Accounts

Lisa Valcich noted that letters will be issued next week to property owners with delinquent accounts in preparation of issuing liens on the February 1, 2014 Real Estate Tax bills.

2. Old Business

Pieter Hartford noted the following:

- potential change order being finalized
- fence poles installed
- pump and electric work scheduled for next week
- substantial completion planned for mid-November
- major potential change order costs – painting of doors and floors

Mr. Hartford noted that the projected final cost remains under budget.

Mr. Colby reviewed the request for \$1.4M in additional local borrowing. Mr. Hartford added that it takes approximately two months for the borrowing.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fowler to authorize the borrowing of \$1.4M for the Artichoke Reservoir improvements.

Vote: 3 yes

Construction Report

Route 95

Dan Lynch noted the following concerning the Route 95 water main break:

- contractor built road without adequate covering on the water main
- split valve
- shutdown approximately 16 valves
- lines shutdown were lines that fill the water tanks
- tanks were almost low enough to require DEP notification
- made initial repair and turned valves back on
- another area blew after valves back on
- McCourt personnel helped with repairs
- contacted EJ Prospect for insertion valve at 1:30 am
- installed valve @ 4:30 am

Mr. Lynch stated that his staff determined it is possible to shut the main down using valves on Laurel Road. The plan is to install 9 additional valves to assist in future shutdowns. Mr. Colby added that Mr. Lynch should check with DEP concerning protocol before scheduling the work. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Colby will review and make a plan for this work.

Commissioner Tomasz asked if the Division will charge the contractor for the cost of the break. Mr. Lynch replied that the contractor is paying for the insertion valve and the Division will pay the labor cost.

Mr. Lynch noted that Commissioner Kelley had questions on funding for the Highland Ave work. Materials ordered for Reilly Ave will be used.

Mr. Lynch noted the additional work is ongoing:

- CDM has requested 65 DigSafe markouts for borings
- No record drawing for sewer and tracer wire not used
- Completed drain project at roundabout
- working with contractor at Bresnahan School
- Maritime Landing meter change-out scheduled for Nov 18 – 20
- Hydrant flushing still ongoing

Operations

Paul Colby noted the following:

- Upper Dam – working with surveyors to determine land ownership on the West Newbury side

- AECOM talking with vendors on cost for dredging
- Lower Dam airburst work complete
- Reservoir levels are dropping – Indian Hill down 27-inches; Well #1 shut down; using Well #2

Mr. Colby noted he has received DEP ok for residuals to be grade Type 1 sludge which means suitable for land application. Sludge removal will begin tomorrow.

Financials

Lisa Valcich noted that 27% of FY14 budget was spent during the first quarter.

New Business

Mr. Furnari noted that Commissioner Kelley asked the October 13, Sunday Boston Globe article on Newbury's need to establish a public water supply in its business and light industrial district.

Mr. Furnari also noted that National Grid has submitted the easement documents for two telephone poles on Ferry Road. The Board had agreed to the easement at the August 21 2013 meeting. The document will be sent to Kopelman & Paige for review.

Tabled Items

Nothing to discuss

Director's Report

Mr. Furnari noted that John Harnett will start preliminary work on Merrill Street before winter. On page 2 of the Director's Report is a listing of continued efforts of DPS's three divisions working together.

Minutes

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the September 16 2013 minutes as presented. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 yes

Bills Payable

Commissioner Fowler made a motion seconded by Commissioner Jones to the September 15, October 1 and October bills payable as presented:

Vote: 3 yes

Commissioners' Comments

Next meetings:

Wednesday November 20, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Wednesday December 18, 2013 @ 4:30 pm – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by: