

**Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
September 16, 2013**

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** DPS Facility, 16A Perry Way

**Present:**

**Board:** Chairman Larry Kelley, Commissioners Erford Fowler, Roger Jones, John Tomasz  
**Staff:** Tony Furnari, DPS Director; Paul Colby, Superintendent Water Operations; Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager; Kathe Talkington, Administrative Office Manager  
**Guest:** Pieter Hartford, OPM

**1. Customer Issues**

None to report

**2. Old Business**

Additional Local Cost Items

Pieter Hartford noted that there are available funds for the Artichoke work. He noted that the original cost was overspent due to:

- Spring Lane main replacement
- Emergency Response manual and updates
- Maintaining old clearwell

Mr. Hartford distributed AECOM's estimated cost for the additional local cost items with a total estimated cost of \$1,390,120 which includes a 10% contingency. Mr. Hartford added that the estimated cost also includes \$100,000 for the Artichoke Reservoir system water quality evaluation.

Chairman Kelley noted that the work needs to be done. Commission Jones added that even with the estimated increase in local bonding, the project remains under the original budget.

Commissioner Fowler requested that a written summary and cost for the work be prepared and presented to the Board. Paul Colby noted that the report presented in June outlined the Upper dam work. Chairman Kelley agreed that written documentation should be prepared and presented. Mr. Colby noted that the Water quality evaluation was done in 2010 and is being updated. Commissioner Jones asked if the proposed project will have an effect on available work supply. Mr. Colby replied that water would be available at all time.

Chairman Kelley asked Dan Lynch what mains need replacing. Mr. Lynch replied Route 1 and mains supplying any proposed hotel would need improvement.

Commissioner Fowler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz that the Board would be presented with a written document before approving the additional local bonding.

Vote: 4 yes.

### Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Hartford noted that area around the tank is being backfilled. Leak testing is completed, site restoration work is underway, and substantial completion is expected by end of October.

### **Construction Report**

Dan Lynch noted the following:

- Continue working on Plum Island issues
- Meeting with Newbury on new IMA
- Working on drain line at roundabout
- Renting excavator and trench box for roundabout work
- Renewing services continue
- Merrill Street kickoff – postpones till Spring
- Tree removal on Merrill Street on-going
- Working with contractors for Whittier Bridge and Breshnahan projects

Chairman Kelley noted that there are weekly Whittier Bridge updates on DOT website; link will be sent to Commissioners

### **Operations**

Paul Colby noted that the pulleys and belts were changed at the Artichoke pump station resulting in increased air flow. The window screens will be replaced in the Spring.

Mr. Colby noted Diving Services have replaced the air line to the intake screen. After replacing the air line, divers noted the screens were installed upside; divers fixed by placing screens correctly.

Mr. Colby noted the Board had received communication from Gary Gorski concerning Artichoke River Trail Reclamation Proposal to the Newburyport Conservation Commission. Mr. Colby added the proposal is to clean the walking path on Artichoke from Plummer Spring Road to Storey Ave.

Commissioner Fowler asked who would be responsible for the Cub Scouts doing this work. Mr. Colby noted that this is a project for the Cub Scouts and parent volunteers. Mr. Colby added that this is not a good walking path, but a mature trail.

Commissioner Kelley noted that the reservoir is not a public park and that trail markers and signs will not be permitted.

Mr. Colby will respond to Mr. Gorski on behalf of the Commissioners.

### **Financials**

Mr. Furnari noted that revenue and expenses are on track for FY14.

### **New Business**

Chairman Kelley noted he has a meeting with the Mayor concerning the proposed development in the Route 1 traffic circle area. He added that the Little River study is available for review and he has concerns with supplying water on peak demand days.

Mr. Colby noted that there is a capacity for 4mgpd. Chairman Kelley added that Mr. Karp seems to be doing some movement on development. Mr. Colby added that the Board may need a study to review what capacity is needed based on the developers' proposals.

Chairman Kelley added that there is no mandate to extent the water service into Newbury and recommend that Commissioners review the old report.

Chairman Kelley noted that he had met Nick Pepe, the new Assistant Engineer.

### **Tabled Items**

Nothing to discuss

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Furnari noted that Mr. Pepe is working well on the drain project at the roundabout. Interviews for the Business Manager and Administrative Assistant are completed and reference checks are underway.

Mr. Furnari noted that he has met with Walsh Construction and the dumpster will be removed and a fence installed around the site. He added there are concerns with water draining into Bartlett Spring.

### **Minutes**

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion to approve the August 21 and 28, 2013 minutes as presented. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 yes

### **Bills Payable**

Commissioner Fowler made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to approve the September 1, 2013 bills payable as presented:

Vote: 4 yes

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Kelley noted that the State may be proposing changes to state retirement and benefits.

Next meetings:

Wednesday    October 23, 2013  
Wednesday    November 20, 2013  
Wednesday    December 18, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by: