

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
January 4, 2017
DPS Administration Building – 16C Perry Way
5:00pm

Present Commissioners: John Tomasz, Robert Cook, Roger Jones, Brendan Coffey

Staff:

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari

Business Manager, Kathe Talkington

Engineer, Jon-Eric White

Sewer Chief Operator, Chris Pratt

Sewer Collections Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo

Assistant Water Operations Superintendent, Chris Hood

Guests:

Dyke Hendrickson, Newspaper

Jim Goodwin, Evergreen Partner

1. Mayor Holaday

Not in attendance

2. Appointments/Customer Issues

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the December 5, 2016 minutes.

Vote: 4 yes

4. Business Manager's Report

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

- Water/Sewer liens were submitted for Newburyport and Newbury. Numbers were similar to last year.
- Received approval for \$80,000 transfer from sewer undesignated funds to start work on odor control
- Water/Sewer both in the black on year to date budget

Commissioner Tomasz asked if usage and revenue decreased this year due to water restrictions. Ms. Talkington stated she did not think so, since the mandatory restrictions began in September after the summer. West Newbury was also having issues and drawing more water from us.

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

Vote: 4 yes

5. DPS Operations Reports

Mr. White noted the following on the Engineer's Report;

- The Plum Island hydrant project planning is 80% complete. Currently working with Kopelman and Paige on temporary construction easements. Will have to attend Conservation Commission as well. Time frame is February out to bid and April project start. Cost estimate is not ready.

- Working on the DPS Administrative building punch list. There are still a few issues including heat, leak at back doors, drainage.
- West End Easement Project – (3) easements accepted, (4) being reviewed by attorneys. (2) more are necessary.
 - *237 Storey Avenue – \$48250 proposal was based on appraisal performed. Owners have countered \$12000 more based on the fact that they will lose money by being taxed on the proceeds. Counter offer is \$60062.50. Legal stated that we have no obligation to pay more than the appraisal amount, but that the cost of litigation would easily be more than \$12000 if it went that far. The owner is willing to forego screening as well, which could easily run \$4000–5000.*

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the counter offer of \$60062.50.

Vote: 4 yes

-The new Port Rehabilitation building on Hale Street was ready to tap the water main and ran a test pit. They found that the water main is underneath a retaining wall. They can re-route to the driveway, but the problem does not go away. The retaining wall will be ripped out for new sidewalk, but is put on hold so they do not rupture the water main. The City will need to relocate the water main. There was some discussion of the amount of utilities under Hale Street and how the line would be relocated.

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

- A new Water Superintendent has been hired; Ted Angelakis, formerly of AECOM will start 1/23/17. Mr. Angelakis had a lot to do with the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant and is very familiar with it
- This is the first time in almost two years DPS has been fully staffed
- Continued meetings on odor control
- Will begin meeting about FY18 budgets
- Reviewing changes in procurement laws
- Attended a meet and greet with Mayor and new residents

Mr. Pratt noted the following on the Sewer Report;

- The team has been picking away at mechanical issues and repairs
- There has been a continual nagging with the SCADA system
- New chlorine pumps all set
- Dosing influent at standard rate with ferric chloride.
- Process upset as seen last summer with Filamentous bacteria bloom and settling problems. They have been seeing some breakthrough and have consulted an outside lab to analyze. The cause could be a number of things including organics, acids, low pH, high vfa's (volatile fatty acids), septicity, etc. and could be from a certain entity in town.
- Will be hiring AECOM for approximately 80-100 hour effort for a complete investigation and evaluation of the plant and parts

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

- Graf Road design is 90% completed and have sent feedback to engineers. Looking to go out to bid at the end of January. Looking for approval \$4 million bond note. Mr. Cook asked what the contingency is. It is 15%.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to bond \$4 million for the Graf Road Lift Station work and also \$4.2 million for odor control.

Vote: 4 yes

-Plum Island manhole covers on Northern Blvd. inner and outer are installed; 160 up and running now. They are working bugs out.

Mr. Furnari noted the following on the Water Construction Report;

-12" main on State Street was repaired after a major break. John Hartnett re-paved. There was discussion on utility work on State Street in the future.

-Pine Street and Hale Street had small breaks

-Crew is working on continuing education and rebuilding hydrants city wide

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

-As of today the reservoirs are at 86%. The Lower and Upper Artichoke are full and Indian Hill is out 53 inches. Mr. Cook asked about the Indian hill recharge area and if it has ever been considered to pump overflow there. Mr. Hood commented that it has been discussed in the past, but he did not know details or the outcome of conversations.

-Work on wells beginning of March. The last time this was done was 2011 and there were notes on recommendations.

Mr. Cook commented that with changes in state procurement this project would likely need 3 quotes instead of the whole bid package. Ms. Talkington asked that the Commission transfer \$60,000 from undesignated funds

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffey to transfer \$60,000 from undesignated funds for well work/repairs.

Vote: 4 yes

-Many trees around the reservoirs are down from beavers and Highway will be meeting to come up with a plan to help remove these trees.

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

Vote: 4 yes

6. Sewer Pretreatment Report

Chris Pratt presented on behalf of Jerry Cronin, Pretreatment Coordinator

-Waiting on response from EPA on audit findings, but know there are no violations

-Working on permitting two breweries

-PCI Synthesis exceeded the regulated amount of BODs. There was some discussion on whether we used to have a fine structure for this.

7. New/Old Business

-Hillside Center/David Hall (pending submittal)

Ms. Sarah Holden, Project Manager emailed the business office to notify us that they would not be in attendance at the January meeting.

-West End Easement Project Update

See above.

-Odor Control Project Update

Bob Rafferty of Environmental Partners was present to update the Board:

- Contract 1— still waiting on SCADA panel from Methuen Construction. Hope to have in house in a week and then have installed in 3 weeks. Initially this was supposed to be done by 10/3/16, any fines should come out of Methuen Construction's budget.

- Contract 2 –Schedule now dependent on the bonding process. Environmental Partners will advertise for public bidding of the construction contract at the end of January. The project cost remains \$5 million.
 - o Bond order for \$800,000 was submitted to City Council at the 12/12/16 meeting and was then sent to Budget and Finance Committee and Public Utilities Committee. Staff will attend the 1/9/17 meetings to answer any questions.
 - o Commission approved request for \$4.2 million bond order for the remainder of contract 2. Funds need to be in place in order to accept bid.

-Evergreen Commons Project Update

Mr. Furnari submitted a letter to the Planning Board that we are at a stalemate. We should get testing results back next week.

Jim Goodwin, Partner from Evergreen attended the meeting.

He asked if the commission requested testing. Mr. Furnari responded that yes, we tested two areas closest to the property. AECOM and staff were onsite.

Commissioner Cook brought up a number of new items;

1. Sewer Connection Fee was last raised in 1997, based on \$1000 per unit. He would like to look at increasing this to \$5000 per unit and asked Mr. Tuccolo to get some comparisons of what other communities charge for the next meeting
2. I/I account is at approximately \$480,000. Have to go to council to transfer out. Looking for a list of potential trouble areas regarding I/I to the next meeting.
3. The EPA updated laws on Dentist offices/silver regulations. Is this something the pretreatment coordinator should look into sampling? Mr. Pratt said that offices should have a separator/trap in the basement. The general consensus was this would be difficult to test for.

8. Executive Session

None

9. Confirm Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held at 5:00pm at 16C Perry Way;

Monday February 13, 2017

Monday March 13, 2017

Vote: 4 yes

10. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 4 yes

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.

Vote: 4 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan