

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
November 15, 2017 4:00pm
Wastewater Treatment Facility - 115 Water Street

Present Commissioners: John Tomasz, Roger Jones, Brendan Coffey, Larry Kelley, Sandy Friede, Charles Kennedy
Staff:

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari
DPS Business Manager, Kathe Talkington
Engineer, Jon-Eric White
Sewer Chief Operator, Chris Pratt
Sewer Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo
Water Superintendent, Ted Angelakis
Assistant Water Superintendent, Chris Hood
Water Distribution Manager, Dan Lynch

Guests:

Attorney Lisa Mead, representing Evergreen Commons
Jim Goodwin, Evergreen
Eric Kelley, Environmental Partners Group
Andy Port, Planning Director
Dyke Hendrickson, Daily News
Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

- 1. A tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements took place from 4:00-5:00pm**
- 2. Evergreen Update, Andy Port, Planning Director**

Andy Port, Planning Director updated the commission on the status of the Evergreen project. The item is on the Planning Board agenda tonight. Horsely Witten closed out key issues on seasonal high groundwater and ILSF (Isolated Land Subject to Flooding). The Board is still waiting on proposed conditions to be placed on any approvals. Horsely Witten's recent report to the Planning Board was handed out to the Commissioners for review. Mr. Port noted that it was premature for the Board to take a stance tonight without reviewing and asked that they provide feedback and concerns at their next meeting. The Planning Department, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission are all looking for Water/Sewer Commission feedback.

The Commission discussed the date for the next meeting – it was decided to move the meeting up from December 20, 2017 to December 13, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Commissioner Tomasz asked that Mr. Furnari and Ms. Talkington bundle and re-send all information – old and new so that the new commissioners could also review everything associated with the project. Mr. Port noted that the Planning Department website has most documents posted for review.

Attorney Mead spoke on behalf of Evergreen Commons. She stated the Planning Office has been requesting comments from the Water/Sewer Commission since May on the project. She told the Commission while reviewing the Horsely Witten report and thinking of conditions, note the OSRD Special Permit that was approved in late Spring includes many conditions relative to well #2 and requires HOA document inclusions. She also reminded the Board that a big piece of the OSRD approval was that a piece of land be deeded to the Water Department to allow them space to move a well if needed in the future. Horsely Witten may have additional conditions on top of those currently approved. Conservation Commission meets December 5th and Planning Board will likely have a continuance to either December 6th or 20th. Attorney Mead would forward the draft HOA conditions to Mr. Furnari for the Commission to review.

Commissioner Tomasz stated the Commission would like to put this behind them and will discuss at the December meeting.

3. Mayor

Unable to attend.

4. Appointments/Customer Issues

-15 Howard Street

Neil Hubacker, owner appeared before the Board to ask for an abatement of a May 2017 bill that included a tamper fee, new meter charge, and estimated usage charges. The Hubackers closed on 15 Howard Street on 12/31/16 and the home has been vacant and under construction since. During construction the contractor removed the meter, which resulted in the tamper charge.

Mr. Lynch noted that the meter has been removed while the water was still active at the street level, leaving them with access to unmetered water.

Contractor Dennis Anderson explained that he needed to move the meter during renovation and needed water off. He cut the pipe above and below the meter and removed it. He noted water was shut off; however this was at an internal valve.

The commission discussed the issues and had a hard time being sympathetic to the charges. The contractor clearly was in the wrong removing the meter.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Friede to deny the abatement request, and keep charges as is.

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

5. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to accept the October 18, 2017 minutes.

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

6. Business Manager's Report

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

- Water fund almost in black
- Sewer fund in black due to budget reserve
- Office has been receiving payment on lien avoidance – to be migrated to real estate in December
- Water retained earnings balance \$1,769,560.00
- Sewer retained earnings balance \$1,131,128.00

Commissioner Friede expressed some concern with cash flow for some residents who pay annually to avoid a lien. Ms. Talkington noted that 14% per annum interest does apply to any past due bills.

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

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

7. DPS Operations Reports

Jon-Eric White noted the following on the Engineering Report;

- Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Project is 22% complete
- Working in house on design for riverbanks. Wayne Amaral to determine whether to handle as change order or not
- Project as a whole going better than planned

Commissioner Friede asked if it is easier to do a change order or if that is the right thing as well. Mr. White answered that in this case it is the right thing. This contractor knows the system and what they are doing. If we went out to bid it could be problematic. The riverbank is the most corrosive soil on the Island.

- West End Easement Project to likely start in Spring 2018.
- Working with Chris Pratt on resiliency work with climate change impacts. Communities are gearing up for heavy storms and rising tides.

Jamie Tuccolo noted the following on the Collections Report;

- Have reach depth for Graf Road Lift Station; they will now begin working back up and out of the hole. Methuen Construction is doing the work.
- Commissioner Coffey asked if they have had any water issues with storms. Mr. Tuccolo responded that surprisingly they have had no water at all.
- Dawes Street sewer replacement complete within six days
- Caswell will be Olga Way to replace the hot water tank which will complete repairs from the water break.
- Commissioner Jones asked if they got rid of the overhead water line that could be a potential future issue. Mr. Tuccolo responded that they made sure there will be no future issues
- Chemical tank delivery 11/1 to Plum Island, will start feed the week of the 27th

Chris Pratt presented the following on the Sewer Report;

- Pretreatment Coordinator is back in the saddle and working on updating permits
- Plant running well within compliance for the month and has been since mid-April
- SCADA work ongoing to fine tune processes
- Ferric chloride tank converted to magnesium hydroxide tank
- Completed rehab of secondary clarifier

Commissioner Tomasz questioned replacing valves mentioned under maintenance and whether they were installed five years ago. Mr. Pratt answered that these valves are about 40 years old. They have replaced 12 out of 30 in queue

Eric Kelley of Environmental Partners gave a quick update on the Odor Control progress;

- Duct work placement complete for buried odor control
- In process with installing conduit for destratification fans
- Mason is mobilized for blower building
- working to complete all work that stands in the way of paving prior to arrival of cold weather
- Still on track for completion late February
- Weather permitting pieces finished in March/Spring

Dan Lynch noted the following on the Water Construction Report;

- Crews worked on a service replacement on Liberty Street
- Parker Street leak – crews will be there tomorrow
- Leak at Hay Street, Newbury – called in leak detection
- Hydrant repaired on Everett Drive
- Valves on Hale Street/Malcolm Hoyt to be replaced next week

Chris Hood noted the following on the Water Operations Report;

- A correction was made to the pumping data provided in the packets
 - Annual sludge drying bed cleaning in process
 - 330 yards of sludge hauled by Agresource, Inc
 - BMI Mechanical in 10/25 and removed sump pump #1 - CIP project should be done within 2-3 weeks
 - Power loss in storm 10/30. Generator on site has belt issues. A backup generator rented and was on site in case of issues and to have peace of mind. Power was back in approximately 40 hours.
- There was discussion of the age and hours on the generator and the issue with it. There are less than 300 hours on it; Cummins has been in directly to look into issue with no success on the root issue yet
- Commissioner Coffey suggested looking at another generator as well with alternative fuels -maybe natural gas.
- Surveillance cameras being upgraded

Tony Furnari noted the following on the Director's Report;

- Water HEO position filled, sewer line maintenance operator position open
- Mark Collyer at Water Treatment Plant retiring in December, position posted
- Training on syringe needles/kits

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the reports as presented.

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

8. Sewer Pretreatment Report

See above – Chris Pratt update

9. New/Old Business

-Evergreen Commons Project Update

See above – Andy Port update

-West End Easement Update

See above – Jon-Eric White update

-Odor Control Project Update:

See above –Chris Pratt update

-Graf Road Lift Station Update

See above – Jamie Tuccolo update

-Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Update:

See above – Jon-Eric White update

-Other Items

Contract Amendment for Professional Engineering Services – Additional Odor Control and Facility Updates

Erik Kelley explained the change orders;

- Task 6.5; under the direction of the Water/Sewer Commission, EVP procured and paid for a temporary odor control system from Baker Corporation, reviewed vendor design drawings, and coordinated the installation, start-up, and operation of the unit from 5/26/17 through 7/5/17.

-Task 6.6; EVP assisted the City with procurement of the chemical feed system for the Plum Island pumping station and coordinated with Methuen Construction for construction of the system. This approach provided significant cost savings to the City by avoiding a full design and bidding effort. Additional City initiated design change requests are included in this.

The total value of the amendments is \$66,780.00

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the Contract Amendment for Professional Engineering Services – Additional Odor Control and Facility Updates.

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

Ms. Snow missed the beginning of the meeting when Mr. Port spoke about Evergreen Commons. Ms. Snow wanted to know if they Water/Sewer Commission are to vote on the project. Mr. Furnari explained that the Planning Board has asked for input from the commission. The priority of the Water/Sewer Commission here is the safety of the City's water supply, including wells, and review the potential need for another well.

Commissioner Tomasz said that the Water/Sewer Commission's perspective on the project will be discussed now that they have relevant information.

Commissioner Kelley expressed his frustration again and questioned the process and flow of information with the Evergreen Commons Project. A committee should have been formed with information properly passed between departments and Boards. He felt in the dark and it difficult to make decisions. If ours wells are not properly protected, the City will be in trouble.

10. Executive Session:

None

11. Confirm Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held at 5:00pm at 16C Perry Way;
Wednesday December 13, 2017

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

12. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

13. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffey to adjourn the meeting at 5:30p.

Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

Respectfully Submitted By: Katie Mahan