

## **Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners**

**December 13, 2017**

**5:00pm**

**DPS Admin Building – 16C Perry Way**

**Present Commissioners:** John Tomasz, Robert Cook, Roger Jones, Brendan Coffey, Larry Kelley, Sandy Friede  
**Staff:**

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari  
DPS Business Manager, Kathe Talkington  
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  
Jim Goodwin, Evergreen Commons  
Doug Gove, AECOM  
Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

**1. Mayor Holaday**

*Not in attendance.*

**2. Appointments/Customer Issues**

*None*

**3. New/Old Business**

**-Evergreen Commons Project Update**

Commissioner Tomasz opened the discussion on the Evergreen Commons project.

The purpose of the Newburyport Water Resource Protection District is to;

1. Promote adequate and highest quality water possible for residents
2. Preserve and protect existing and potential watersheds and aquifers for drinking water supplies
3. Prevent temporary and permanent contamination in the water resource protection district
4. Protect the community from the detrimental use and development of land and water within the water protection district

Residential development is a use that is allowed within the water resource protection district, provided that all necessary permits, orders, approvals by local, state, or federal laws are first obtained. Under our ordinance, the Planning Board has authority to grant such approval through a Special Permit.

The two primary concerns the he felt commissioners have in regards to the proposed Evergreen Commons Project are:

1. The protection of our watershed and aquifer that provides potable water to the residents of Newburyport
2. The ability to renew either the existing wells or install a new well within the general area of the proposed development

Based on numerous reports that noted probably improved groundwater quality, the ability to install a new well or rehabilitate our existing wells, Commissioner Tomasz' experience in the operation of two water treatment systems, our responsibility to ensure that the water quality and quantity from our existing wells will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development, it was his position that the Commission should not take a negative position on this project with the following requirements;

1. The \$2M insurance policy shall extend to a period of five (5) years beyond the substantial completion of the project
2. The applicant shall conduct quarterly testing from the three (3) observation wells for a period of five (5) years beyond the substantial completion of the project
3. Any approval include the items noted in the December 11, 2017 Horsley Witten Group report Section B as previously noted

Commissioner Tomasz felt that the Board would be looking for trouble if they took a negative stance without good, factual information. The Commission has been looking at the project for a long time and it is time to move forward.

Doug Gove of AECOM commented that the DEP do not have concerns of well quality. Many local water supplies are close to homes and in potentially vulnerable areas.

The Board did still have concerns for during construction such as spill prevention, hitting the water table, storm water control, and Briggs Avenue drainage.

Commissioner Coffey commented that the developer has done everything reasonable. Overall we have adequate resources, predicted to 2040. At some point the commission should consider looking further and outside the City for water resources in case something should happen.

Attorney Mead thanked the Board. She did have comments on the suggested requirements;

-The \$2M insurance policy goes through construction. The developers would be unable to find an insurance policy that extends beyond construction.

-Attorney Mead noted that that in the OSRD Planning Board approval there is a requirement for baseline boundary monitoring well testing prior to construction and testing during and after construction. Every twelve (12) months during construction the applicant would test at monitoring well sites under DPS, Water Division supervision. Written results would be provided to DPS, Water Division, Board of Health, Conservation Commission and the Planning Office. If after the first year the results not differ from the baseline results, the Planning Board may allow subsequent tests to be applied only at the boundary.

Commissioner Kelley wanted ensure the HOA stays alive. Attorney Mead commented that this HOA would get recorded prior to deeds going out with very clear requirements for these properties. The document gives permission to City at cost to the HOA to remedy a situation. The City would also have a right to lien the association. Per the Conservation Commission, there will be annual reporting requirements.

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

Ms. Snow asked if a resident were to empty a pool or violate part of the permitting, how that would be handled. Attorney Mead responded that the City's Zoning Enforcement Officer would be responsible for enforcement.

Commissioner Cook made a motion seconded by Commissioner Jones that the Water and Sewer Commission not take a negative position on the proposed Evergreen Commons, LLC development with the understanding

that all safeguards, requirements and/or controls included in the Planning Board's decisions and the December 11, 2017 Horsley Witten report are adhered to.

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

#### **-Safe Yield Report**

Doug Gove of AECOM asked the Board for any additional comments of the draft safe yield report. If there are none, AECOM would finalize the report.

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to finalize the AECOM Safe Yield Report.*

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

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to accept the November 15, 2017 minutes.*

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

#### **5. Business Manager's Report**

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

-The Business Office finished liens on outstanding FY17 water/sewer bills totaling \$244,735.92, which was an increase from FY16 of about \$15,000. For the Town of Newbury, we lienied \$ 24,794.00, which was a decrease of about \$7,000.00 Since the process began in October with notices sent, almost \$200,000.00 was brought in

Commissioner Jones asked if by delaying payment as some do if there was interest added. Ms. Talkington responded that all past due bills accumulate interest at 14% per annum.

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

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

#### **6. DPS Operations Reports**

***Tony Furnari noted the following on the Engineering Report;***

-Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Project update; 36 hydrants have been replaced. We are 26% complete. The project is currently on hold due to weather.

-Redesign of the riverbank improvements is being worked on

-West End Easement will likely have to wait until the spring for work to be started

Commissioner Kelley asked about the Whittier Bridge post-project cleanup of the Spring Lane area. Mr. Angelakis and Mr. Furnari noted that everything should go back to its natural state. They do need to meet with Walsh and discuss.

***Jamie Tuccolo noted the following on the Collections Report;***

-Graf Road Lift Station Project; waterproofing and rebar were installed, and the foundation was poured

-There is an ongoing massive grease issue downtown. The department has a new head for the vacuor truck to more thoroughly clean lines. They will also be revving up the pretreatment program with restaurants. The hope is to create an app like the one for the Plum Island sewer system, but with grease traps.

-AIRVAC left today and is 100% with repairs. Things have been running well on Plum Island

Commissioner Cook asked if Mr. Tuccolo had heard anything about the status of the Provincetown vacuum sewer system. Mr. Tuccolo has heard that they still have problems, but it is operational. They would like to eventually come see our system.

***Chris Pratt presented the following on the Sewer Report;***

- Odor Control project is moving along nicely
  - FOG (Fats, Oils, Grease) program is getting ramped up
  - Plant running well
  - Northeast Controls has been in for SCADA system data mining training
  - Fine bubble aeration system for the Aerobic Digesters is complete and online. Dissolved oxygen concentration is five times that with coarse bubble diffusers. Reduced air feed rate and consumption by 50%.
  - Plum Island Olga Way odor control introduction to prevent septicity is complete and is working well.
- Commissioner Cook suggested looking into the introduction of odor control like this on Graf Road in the future. Commissioner Jones asked if the system on Olga Way is safe from vandalism. Fencing will be installed and will be kept locked.

***Dan Lynch noted the following on the Water Construction Report;***

- Crews have been dealing with leaks/breaks; Hale Street, Zabriskie Drive, Franklin Street, Hanover Street, Low Street at Stickney Ave.

***Ted Angelakis noted the following on the Water Operations Report;***

- Reservoirs are up 1% and Indian Hill is up an inch
- No issues power in the last month
- Working on annual replacements
- A plant tour was held for students at UNH
- NESC has been working on SCADA programming for multiple power spike repairs
- Submitted new 20 year water management act to MA DEP
- Subcontractor Hydrus was on site to repair clay valves in the Plum Island booster station. The large vertical valve was sticking.
- New autoclave repaired under warranty
- Last round of sludge pumping in lagoons was done in November
- National Weather Service was on site for snow measurement training with staff

Commissioner Coffey asked if there have been further generator issues. They have not had issues and seem to think the issue may be with tightening of the belts.

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

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

**7. Sewer Pretreatment Report**

*See above – Chris Pratt update*

**8. Executive Session:**

*None*

**9. Confirm Next Meetings**

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

Wednesday January 17, 2018

Wednesday February 28, 2018

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

**10. Warrant Contract Signing**

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

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

**11. Adjournment**

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coffey to adjourn the meeting at 6:16p.*

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

Respectfully Submitted By: Katie Mahan

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