

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
April 26, 2017
DPS Administration Building – 16C Perry Way
5:00pm

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

Staff:

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

Guests:

Robert Rafferty, Environmental Partners
Richard Gruen, Resident

1. Mayor Holaday

Did not attend.

2. Appointments/Customer Issues

Richard Gruen, 82 High Street – Appeal of abatement denial

Mr. Gruen was appealing a \$300 emergency call crew fee. He experienced a leak coming into his basement where his service pipe comes in. The person he spoke with said a fee may apply depending on if the issue was on the City or homeowner side. The water department turned water valve off and then on at the street and listened for leaks on the City side. Nothing was detected, and the water department said they would return Monday to see if the issue was still happening. It was not. The City's sewer department also checked the street level for any issues. There were none. The issue seemed to have been resolved. The Commissioners discussed the situation, lack of issue found, possible water table issues, and department policy.

Commissioner Tomasz made a motion to reduce the emergency call crew fee to \$150, and Commissioner Cook seconded.

Vote: 5 yes

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the March 22, 2017 minutes as amended.

Vote: 5 yes

4. Business Manager's Report

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

- All transfers submitted were approved by City Council, except for Plum Island Hydrant replacement
- Mayor made few cuts to budgets – mostly level funding
- 5/17 budgets go before City Council
- Need to vote on rate next meeting after budgets are reviewed by City Council. Commissioner Jones asked if we could predict out 4-5 years

- National Grid accounts were refunded approximately \$91,000 to water \$10,000 to sewer for various overpayments and incorrect application of solar credits. The funds will be put back into the electricity line item of the operating budgets
- Undesignated fund balance for water is at \$1.67 million and sewer is at \$1.26 million

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

Vote: 5 yes

5. DPS Operations Reports

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

- Plum Island hydrant project plans are ready to go out to bid. Wayne Amaral will be advertising this
- Plans are being finalized on West End easement
 - 235 Storey Avenue accepted original proposal
- Port Rehab – no update as far as engineering. Mr. Lynch noted that after semi-annual hydrant flushing, crews will move on to Hale Street to relocate the water main.

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

He noted the following from the Sewer Superintendent's Report;

- Phase One of alarm install is complete and Phase Two is scheduled for mid-May
- MEMA came out to see alarm system
- Grease problems downtown – will be working on cleaning of main line
- Pre bid meeting for Graf Road was yesterday. Sub bid opening scheduled for 5/4/17 and General Contractor scheduled for 5/18/17
- Working on issue with Building Department on Plum Island homes advertising more bedrooms than permitted

Mr. Pratt noted the following on the Sewer Report;

Mr. Pratt presented the Pretreatment report on behalf of Jerry Cronin;

- Spot tests were all fine
 - Normal testing and sampling occurring
- Mr. Furnari noted that the Sewer Department is working to tighten up the FOG (Fats, Oil, Grease) program and had three days of presentations on to local food establishments. A firm is coming in as of May 1, enforcing regulations. We are not dwelling in the past, and are focusing on the future.

As far as the treatment plant;

- Lot of settling problems. Exceeded limits TSS and BOD limits, which was exacerbated by weather. Working in house and with consultant. The root cause is known. They will try a multifaceted approach to fixing.
- Good news is TSS #s were better
- Mr. Pratt handed out observations and conditions of the plant that he has compiled since starting His next steps are to bullet, prioritize, cost estimate them, and present to the Board.
- AECOM is working on a process assessment (Mr. Pratt has a draft from them). He will submit to Board and parallel with his list.
- AECOM will begin BIO WIN modeling with an estimated cost of \$60,000-70,000 in two stages. Stage one is sampling and analysis for one month, not to exceed \$25,000 – asking the Board's approval to proceed. Stage two is to build the model.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to extend the existing contract with AECOM, not to exceed \$25,000, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz.

Vote 5 yes

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

-Hydrant flushing progress – the crews are up to Lime Street

-Break on Boston Way this past Sunday due to a corrosion issue. The main was about 8' down.

There was brief discussion on State Street/Water Street main work. It will not be done in house and will be coordinated with other utility work. It likely will not happen for a few years.

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

-In March 45 million gallons were pumped, with a daily average 1.4 million gallons.

-Reservoirs are 100% full

-Working on plant maintenance projects

-MADEP Annual statistical report submitted

-CR Environmental and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Division of Watershed Management) will be conducting depth surveys and sampling studies by motorized boat on the Indian Hill, Upper and Lower Artichoke Reservoirs. The programs will start May 1st and continue into the early fall. A press release will be on website, submitted to paper, and signage made and posted in anticipation of people seeing boats.

-Met with Andy Madden of the Greenbelt group. They are asking permission for Pearson to access property for work being done. Mr. Angelakis felt comfortable with this. The Commission trusted the discretion of Mr. Angelakis.

-Highway division has helped to dress road up in anticipation of bike ride coming up and with dam clean up

-Evergreen Project Status; As of 4/10 the City went for temporary taking of land, and it is being contested. We are at a holding pattern until resolved and have a well driller queued up. After City Council votes, as of May 1, the City will have the property for 3 months. There was discussion of test well sizes and locations. Next steps are not known until test wells are drilled and tested.

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

Vote: 5 yes

6. Sewer Pretreatment Report

See above – Chris Pratt update

7. New/Old Business

-West End Easement Update

See above – Jon-Eric White update

-Odor Control Project Update

Robert Rafferty, Environmental Partners noted the following;

-Odor Control Improvements – Contract 2 construction project – recommendation to award to lowest responsive and eligible bidder, Methuen Construction.

-Sub bids were received 3/24/17. Sub bids were rejected for three categories; masonry, miscellaneous metals, and HVAC. No bids were received for roofing/flashing or waterproofing. The scopes of work for masonry and miscellaneous metals were re-bid. The General Contractor was directed to include the cost of work for HVAC, roofing/flashing and waterproofing in its General Bid.

-The new sub-bids and general bids were received 4/12/17. After review, Methuen Construction was determined to be the low bidder.

-The City has requested quotes for providing a Temporary Odor Control System as there will be a need before Memorial Day.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to authorize Anthony Furnari to award a bid up to \$50,000 for a temporary odor control system, seconded by Commissioner Kelley.

Vote: 5 yes

Commissioner Cook made a motion to accept the recommendation to award Methuen Construction with a bid of \$4,163,576.00, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz.

4 yes. (Commissioner Kelley abstained)

-Evergreen Commons Project Update

See above – Ted Angelakis update

8. Executive Session

None

9. Confirm Next Meetings

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

Wednesday May 24, 2017

Wednesday June 21, 2017

Vote: 5 yes

10. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 5 yes

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to adjourn the meeting at 6:07p.

Vote: 5 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan