

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
June 21, 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
Sewer Superintendent, Jamie Tuccolo
Assistant Water Superintendent, Chris Hood
Water Distribution Manager, Dan Lynch

Guests:

Dyke Hendrickson, Newburyport Daily News

1. Mayor Holaday

Did not attend.

2. Appointments/Customer Issues

Joe Leone, 40 Merrimac Street;

Mr. Leone requested that the City review proposed I/I fees for the Ale House at 40 Merrimac Street. 220 of the 440 proposed seats are outdoors and only used for part of the year. At the last meeting, the Commission asked Mr. Tuccolo to put together options for I/I fees for the outdoor seating. Mr. Tuccolo presented three options; fees for 3, 4, or months.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept option #2; (Outdoor seating 4 months) \$7700.00 + (indoor seating) \$23,100.00 = Total I/I \$30,800.00.

Vote: 5 yes

161-163 Route One;

Mr. Lynch explained that as part of the development an 8" main to the development was added. The developers then ran 1.5" lines to each unit to provide both domestic and fire suppression. There are two issues;

1. We do not allow 1.5" lines – we require 1" or 2"

2. We require fire suppression be separate from domestic lines. The new lines were apparently run under a concrete slab to utility closets and would be difficult to change.

The developers should have consulted with Mr. Lynch before beginning work to avoid this. Mr. Furnari recalled a pre-meeting a few years ago where it was explained that the domestic and fire suppression lines must be separate. After discussion amongst the commission, it was decided that they will need to run separate lines for domestic and fire suppression.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to deny the request for the use of one service line for domestic and fire suppression. They must install a separate line as required by policy.

Vote: 5 yes

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the May 24, 2017 minutes.

Vote: 5 yes

4. Business Manager's Report

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

- FY18 budgets were passed by City Council as submitted
- As we approach the end of the fiscal year, water and sewer are both in the black
- Transfers pending; Plum Island Hydrant Replacement, rate stabilization, meter replacement, water main replacement.

Commissioners discussed upcoming meter replacement; likely to take place starting in 2021 by sections or routes. There is new technology becoming more common with wifi capability, alerts, etc.

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 Replacement bid opening tomorrow.

Commissioner Tomasz asked that results be sent to commissioners

- West End Easement; moving on to City Council for taking for easement. One resident is still holding out, but expected to come to an agreement when husband returns for work travel.

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

- Closing out books FY17
- Working out new payroll system, time card system
- After bids come in tomorrow, we will likely need a special meeting to award contract and vote.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to authorize Mr. Furnari to sign off on proprietary specifications regarding the Plum Island Hydrant replacement.

Vote: 5 yes

Mr. Pratt presented the following on the Sewer Report;

- Odor control project is underway with Methuen Construction mobilizing last week
- Internally odors have been good, with no complaints in the last month. Measures taken seem to have helped
- Plant has been running well within permit compliance. DEP visited yesterday to go over process changes, etc.
- Work with Environmental Partners and Methuen Construction will be ongoing

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

Mr. Tuccolo asked for a clear vote to award the Grad Road Lift Station contract. The vote from the last meeting was unclear in meeting notes.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to award the Graf Road Lift Station contract to Methuen Construction in the amount of \$4,928,151.00.

Vote: 5 yes

-AIRVAC coming onsite Sunday for phase 2 of alarm project; City has predrilled holes and installed kits and the team coming in with install radio transmitters. They will return at the end of July to install new gaskets to battery packs from phase 1.

Commissioner Tomasz asked about four bedroom real estate advertisements coming up on Plum Island. Mr. Tuccolo noted there was one instance that was legitimate and a bedroom was removed.

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

- Hale Street water main replacement is ongoing and set to be complete before July 10.
- Water break on Hoyts Lane Friday 6/16 was repaired.

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

- AECOM finalizing bathymetric study
- Last weekend there was an issue where National Grid clean power was not coming in causing a generator issue. GE to be in this week to assist with the issue.

Commissioner Cook was wondering if there is still a program with National Grid where on high demand days, they would pay for you to run generators. He suggested the plant look into it.

- Reservoirs full as of today
- In 'limbo' with Evergreen Project
- DPS assisted at Indian Hill cutting back brush and grass to make it more manageable in the future

Commissioner Jones asked if the bathymetric confirmed depths. Mr. Hood had not seen anything finalized yet.

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

See above – Chris Pratt update

-Graf Road Lift Station Update

See above – Jamie Tuccolo update

-Evergreen Commons Project Update

See above – Chris Hood update

-Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Update

See above – Jon-Eric White/Anthony Furnari update

8. Executive Session

None

9. Confirm Next Meetings

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

Wednesday July 19, 2017

Vote: 5 yes

10. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 5 yes

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to adjourn the meeting at 5:35p.

Vote: 5 yes

Respectfully Submitted By:

Katie Mahan