

Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners
September 20, 2017 5:00pm
DPS Administration Building – 16C Perry Way

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

DPS Director, Anthony Furnari
DPS Business Manager, Kathe Talkington
City 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:

Mayor Holaday
Andy Port, Planning Director
Doug Gove, AECOM
Eric Kelley, Environmental Partners Group
Ray Merrick, 12 South Pond Street, Newbury

1. Mayor Holaday

Mayor Holaday had been in touch with the Attorney General's office and Rubin and Rudman regarding the post settlement agreement for Plum Island. The City will be receiving wire payment for the remaining \$750,000 from the settlement Friday for the Plum Island Trust Fund.

The Board welcome new alternate member Sandy Friede.

2. Appointments/Customer Issues

Ray Merrick, 12 South Pond Street, Newbury

Mr. Merrick would like to obtain permission to connect to the Newburyport sewer system. Jamie Tuccolo has been to the house and did not see an issue with connecting. This would be the last on South Pond Street to connect due to capacity. Commissioner Cook thought that the policy was that if the septic system was failing, the commission could consider them for connection. Mr. Tuccolo explained the policy was updated in 2015 and that those in Newbury could be considered on a case by case basis to connect to the Newburyport sewer system if it is available/has capacity and they have commission approval.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to allow 12 South Pond Street, Newbury to connect to the Newburyport Sewer System.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to accept the August 16, 2017 minutes.

Vote: 5 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey)

4. Business Manager's Report

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

- Revenue is looking good. Still in the red due to several larger expenses early on in the fiscal year, such as retirement and debt
- By October we expect to get an addition to our undesignated funds. Water and sewer should each go up about \$200,000.
- Next month we will start to put together materials for liens. Currently, past due bills from FY17 are over \$500,000. In past years it has been closer \$700-\$800,000.
- Signatures are needed from the commission on a document for sewer privilege fees paid over a period of time that must be recoded with the Registry of Deeds.

*Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tomasz to accept the report as presented.
Vote: 6 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede)*

5. DPS Operations Reports

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

- Had the bid opening for the West End Sewer Access Road project. Bids came in favorable and under engineering estimate
- Lowest qualified bid came in at \$193,030.00 (T. Ford Company)

Commissioner Tomasz asked if we had a schedule yet. He did not yet have a schedule, but they will start before winter and it should take about a month and a half.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to award the contract for the West End Sewer Access Road project to T. Ford Company in the amount of \$193,030.

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

(Note: Contract signed at meeting)

- Plum Island hydrant replacement project started last week and is going well
- There is one crew on until everything is in place
- The hope is to finish sooner than expected, sometime next year

Jamie Tuccolo noted the following on the Collections Report;

- Graf Road Lift Station project
- Hole is about 15' down so far and has been all clay as expected
- MA Works meeting went well and they were happy with what they saw
- Had the bid opening for Dawes Street Drainage Replacement Project
- Lowest qualified bid came in at \$96,000 (N. Granese & Sons)

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to award the contract for the Dawes Street Drainage Replacement Project to N. Granese & Sons in the amount of \$96,000.

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

(Note: Contract will be received and signed next week)

- Plum Island Olga Way station experienced a water service break due to a corroded gauge
- Water damage to ceiling, insulation, water heater, fire box, etc., did not touch SCADA or MCC systems
- They will replacing/repairing anything in need during this time – including the possible removal of a water bubbler and line that runs through the ceiling

Commissioner Tomasz asked if they were working with MIIA on this. Mr. Tuccolo responded that yes, they are working on this now and they were called in same day to assess damage.

Commissioner Cook asked if they might install a pressure reducing valve. Mr. Lynch said this would be possible. Mr. Tuccolo said that they may start shutting water off to the building on weekends to be safe.

*Alternate Commissioner Charles Kennedy arrived. Mayor Holaday introduced him to the Board.

Chris Pratt presented the following on the Sewer Report;

- Plant and processes running well
- No odor complaints last month
- Running on one primary clarifier, secondary down for repairs.

Commissioner Tomasz asked if there were any major repairs needed. Mr. Pratt commented that that it has not been offline in about five years and there were various 'band aids' needed.

- Temporary odor control working well.

Alt. Commissioner Kennedy, 167 Water Street commented that the odor over the past three months has been greatly improved.

Commissioner Cook and Mr. Pratt discussed numbers (BOD, TSS, sludge) a bit more in depth.

Eric Kelley of Environmental Partners Group updated the Commission on the Odor Control Project;

- On the 3rd month of construction
- Big milestone – 1st clarifier cover delivered and going up over next 3 weeks – anticipated that around Columbus Day be testing and integrating
- Most equipment has been delivered
- Heavy work is slated to happen in October
- Hope that at the end of October both clarifiers will be running.
- Temporary odor control will remain until early 2018.

Commissioner Tomasz asked if there have been many change orders. Mr. Kelley explained there was one with regard to chemical corrosion control. Equipment has been ordered and will be installed by end of October. There will be another change order with some minor changes.

Commissioner Tomasz asked what the contingency was on the project. It was approximately \$200,000.

Dan Lynch noted the following on the Water Construction Report;

- Finnegan Way almost completed– one more piece to install, pressure test, chlorinate, pave next summer.
- Plum Island Hydrant Replacement project began – staff has been assisting with shut downs
- Hydrant flushing – were slated to start September 25th, but may start the week after

Chris Hood noted the following on the Water Operations Report;

-At the last meeting Commissioners asked for last year's versus this year's pumping reports; Mr. Hood distributed this information to the Board. In August 2017 the total gallons pumped to service was 70,617,000, with a daily average of 2,277,968. In August 2016 the total gallons pumped to service was 83,850,000, with a daily average of 2,704,839.

-Currently debating on opening Indian Hill

Commissioner Cook asked budgetary questions as to revenue this year versus last year. Ms. Talkington responded that the numbers were not much different. She noted West Newbury consumption was not calculated in.

Ted Angelakis noted the following on the Water Operations Report;

- August pumping average of 2.2 million gallons per day
- 95% full; Lower Artichoke was 19 inches out, Upper Artichoke was 17 inches out, and Indian Hill was 4 inches out
- Last month Doug Gove of AECOM presented the safe yield study and well findings

Commissioner Tomasz asked Mr. Gove to give a brief update on the safe yield study report. Mr. Gove noted that the only changes to the draft report from the last meeting were updates to West Newbury demands and slight adjustments to future demand. In summary, we are in good shape for 2040. Mr. Angelakis noted applying this November for the MA DEP 2020 water permit.

Commissioner Kelley asked about the recharge time at Indian Hill in relation to the safe yield report. Mr. Gove explained that they did factor in time to refill and how the yield model works.

- MA DEP reservoir sampling should be done tomorrow
- One member of the staff is currently on the FEMA response team in San Juan, PR
- Auto clave failed – new one online and will be working tomorrow
- National Weather Service has requested that the Treatment Plant staff become remote weather monitors. The staff has begun remote monitoring from the plant
- Installed new relays on Rawson Hill – ordered backups

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

Vote: 7 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

6. Sewer Pretreatment Report

See above – Chris Pratt update

7. New/Old Business

-Evergreen Commons Project Update

Andy Port, Planning Director spoke briefly about where the Planning Board was with the Evergreen project and asked for the Water and Sewer Commission's agreement in the approach they hope to take with regards to hydrology and water supply protection. Tonight the Planning Board will be talking about the subdivision and discussing voting on having a peer review done with Woodard & Curran or Horsely Witten. Mr. Port recommended having a firm that has an expertise to review hydrology and water supply protection related to the project.

The firm would review all relevant plans and documents (provided by the applicant/developer, city officials, AECOM, H&W and CSI) and provide recommendations to the Planning Board (and applicant/developer) as follows;
(Items 1, 2, 4, and 6 in particular were discussed)

1. Identifying any remaining areas of concern (regarding public water supply protection) based upon review of the project plans and related documents, taking into account the Planning Board's prior approval of an Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) Special Permit for this project.

2. Recommend modifications (if any are required) that are advisable or necessary to reduce potential impact of threat to the City's public water supply.

4. Recommend specific Special Conditions that should be imposed on the project/developer (as a condition of approval) to minimize potential impacts to the public water supply both: (a) during construction; and (b) post-construction, taking into account the Planning Board's prior approval of an Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) Special Permit for this project.

6. As far as groundwater levels, there has been disagreement among parties regarding the potential range in on-site groundwater elevations and that the potential exists that higher groundwater elevations than anticipated by the developer may be possible. Evaluate the information regarding groundwater elevations made available by the applicant/developer along with information made available by other interested parties (i.e. the water department, the storm water engineering consultant, etc.). Consider potential information made available from other sources (i.e. USGS) regarding long-term fluctuation in groundwater table in similar geographies with similar soil and climate conditions. The data from these varying sources and the conditions under which they were collected will be evaluated. Based on this evaluation, a recommendation (or recommendations) will be provided regarding the adequacy of the existing information to address Planning Board concerns and/or code requirements. The evaluation of the data and any recommendations based on this evaluation will be summarized and presented in the letter report to the board.

Consultants would need at least a couple of weeks to review and the idea is that they would come back to the Planning Board, Water/Sewer Commission, and Conservation Commission on how to protect the public water supply.

Commissioner Tomasz summarized and clarified what the Board heard tonight. The Planning Board will vote to hire a peer review consultant, with a recommendation from the Water/Sewer Commission to hire Woodard & Curran, who has no connection to either side to review with regard to hydrology and water supply protection. He asked if Mr. Port was looking for agreement in the approach. Mr. Port explained that as part of the City's role protecting the water supply; it would be helpful to use a peer review firm here and asked for any Board insights. The Board was in agreement with the approach of the Planning Office and Planning Board.

Commissioner Kelley wanted to be sure that the firm chosen is one that has true expertise and experience and is not going through the review motions. Mr. Port thought Woodard & Curran was most qualified especially with the hydrogeology piece and item 6.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to agree with the suggestion for peer review with Woodard & Curran for hydrology and water supply protection.

Vote: 7 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

-West End Easement Update

No discussion

-Odor Control Project Update:

See updates under Sewer Report/Chris Pratt

-Graf Road Lift Station Update

See updates under Sewer Collections/Jamie Tuccolo.

-Plum Island Hydrant Replacement Update:

See updates under Water Construction/Dan Lynch and Engineering/Jon-Eric White.

8. Executive Session: None

9. Confirm Next Meetings

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

Wednesday October 18, 2017

Wednesday November 15, 2017

Vote: 7 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

10. Warrant Contract Signing

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

Vote: 7 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to adjourn the meeting at 6:00p.

Vote: 7 yes (Tomasz, Cook, Kelley, Jones, Coffey, Friede, Kennedy)

Respectfully Submitted By: Katie Mahan