

WMAC Meeting Minutes, December 15 2016

Attendees: David Crosby - Chair, Mark Altbet, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Rory McGregor – Secretary

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from October 20 meeting were approved. The meeting originally scheduled for November 17 was cancelled.

2. Eric Hooper discussed water rate pricing for 2017. He discussed the four water user groups comprising single family residences and corresponding revenue from each. He recommended the creation of a 5th group. He suggested a \$5 increase in the base rate and increase rates for water consumption in each user group. The objective is to generate a revenue increase that totals up to \$400K in order to continue financing maintenance/repair work on the water system infrastructure and capital improvement projects like the emergency water connection to Norwood.

Eric will email his proposed water pricing model to WMAC members later this month for comment. WMAC will make its recommendation on pricing at its next meeting.

Implementation of price increase will not take place until Q2 in calendar year 2017. At least 60 days is needed to publicly review the pricing proposal once it is submitted to the selectmen.

3. There was general discussion on philosophy for water pricing and approaches that reflect fairness to all consumers while encouraging conservation. The question of monitoring water consumption by residences with irrigation systems will continue to receive attention since this is an important factor contributing to increased water use in the spring/summer months.

4. Eric Hooper reported that ground water elevation levels are still slightly low due to the drought warning conditions experienced last summer. There was nothing else with respect to water system management that warranted discussion at this time.

5. The next meeting will be Thursday January 12 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor