

WMAC Meeting Minutes, December 21, 2017

Attendees: David Crosby, Chair; Chris Pimentel, Vice-Chair; Mark Altabet, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW; Krishan Gupta, Town Treasurer

- Minutes from the November 16, 2017 meeting were approved.
- 1. Town Treasurer Krishan Gupta gave the committee a handout and an accompanying explanation of what an Enterprise Account was, the budgeting process for an Enterprise Account and the town meeting approval necessary for the appropriation into an Enterprise Account. He then spoke specifically of the Water Dept. Enterprise Account and of the Department of Revenue's oversight role and the constraints of operating within a municipal setting. Mr. Gupta explained the term retained earnings (accumulated surplus) and explained how it was a cushion against operating fluctuations. It provides the financial support for long term operations by providing for necessary repairs and maintenance and some of the funding for capital projects. Retained Earnings for Fiscal Year 2017 amounted to \$1,218,702 and this is 27% of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget of \$4,586,431. A fact sheet showing the Department of Revenue's 6/30/2017 certified retained earnings in the above amount was a handout.
- 2. Member Mark Altabet presented a detailed explanation of why we have a "dirty water" problem in Town. Iron and manganese are natural elements found in Sharon groundwater and wells and while they are not considered hazardous or unhealthy, they can and do stain clothing, tubs etc. He explained that when these elements are oxidized they can change the appearance of water from clear to discolored and can also produce odors. Geology accounts for where these elements are concentrated. He explained that there are several methods for treating water with these elements and the treatments are most effective in water with a narrow PH range of 7.5 to 8.5. Sharon's water is treated with KOH to control the PH range. After the presentation discussion followed as to the extent of the problem. The committee wants to know whether the problem occurs for most residents just during flushing or whether some have it most of the time. A decision was made to send out a questionnaire to everyone who is on the Water Sense list. This would not be a scientific survey but would give the committee some idea of how spread out the problem is.
- 3. Eric said that he is still working on the emergency connection with Norwood. The long time town manager has recently retired and that has slowed the negotiation process.
- 4. There will be a public hearing on setting the new rates for April 1, 2018 in January/February and the Town Administrator has indicated he would like to see a higher base rate. Eric will let the committee know what he will recommend.

Adjournment at 9:40 PM

5. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carney, Acting Secretary