

WMAC Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2017

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, Chris Pimentel – Vice-Chair, Mark Altabet, Anne Carney, Dave Hearne, Rory McGregor - Secretary

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from the October 19 2017 meeting were approved.
2. Replacement of two of Sharon's four water tanks is part of the Water Master Plan. The expenditure for each tank is significant and will require borrowing to finance both projects. Massapoag Ave Tank is scheduled for replacement in 2018. Dead water storage in the cylinder-shape tank is the primary issue which leads to deterioration of the liner. Therefore, replacement of this tank seems to be the wise choice. Budget amount for replacement is \$1.7M. Retained earnings in the Water Department account total \$2.7M (includes \$800K from recent sale of land for cell tower use) and can be used to help finance the Massapoag Tank replacement.

Krishan Gupta, Town Treasurer, will speak on this issue of financing at the next WMAC meeting.

3. Eric will present new policy for residents with in-ground lawn irrigation systems to the selectmen . Public health concerns are the reason for this new policy. Home owners with in-ground irrigation systems will be required to install backflow preventers. Water Department will notify home owners they have one year to comply with this new policy. An annual inspection by an inspector might also be required; this could be performed by a representative from the service company that turns the system on in the spring time. Eric has distributed a check list of items that could be reviewed by an inspector.

4. Weston & Sampson is providing detailed design for pump station and piping for Sharon's emergency water connection to Norwood. Contract amount is \$90K. Negotiation by Sharon town officials with MWRA and town of Norwood for water supply is in progress. Norwood is modeling their distribution system to forecast different scenarios of water volume demand by Sharon. Eric has requested that they model the specific situation where 1 million gallons is required. Eric has allocation of \$1.5M already set aside for pipe and pump house from appropriation of retained earnings in 2015 and 2016.

Walpole also met with Norwood on connection to MWRA for their town. It does not appear that Sharon and Walpole are in a position to jointly approach Norwood/MWRA for better bargaining power.

5. Residential water meter replacement will need to start within the next 5 years. Current meters were installed 10 years ago. Life expectancy is 15 to 20 years. Estimated cost is up to \$2 million.
6. Dave Crosby suggested that we devote future discussion to the water discoloration issue resulting from iron and manganese in the water supply. This led to a broader discussion on lead, copper and other contaminants in the water that require removal. David's proposal is that we reduce pH and chlorine concentrations being added to the water and see if water quality is preserved. Eric will arrange for a water chemistry expert to educate us and decide what approaches we can take.

7. Next meeting will take place Thursday December 21 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary