

WMAC Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2013

Attendees: Ann Carney, David Crosby – Chair, David Hearne, Paul Lauenstein, Rory McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimental, Sarah Windman

Guest: Eric Hooper – Superintendent, Sharon DPW

1. Minutes of the November 21st meeting were approved as amended.
2. There was further review of both the maintenance projects and capital projects on the Water Master Plan. Item 5 will be partially done in FY 2015; the cost expenditure will be \$500,000 to replace water mains in the section of road from the parking lot at Mann's Pond to East Street. However, the full details pertaining to this project are not clear. Eric will investigate and report back.

The Brook Road portion of Item 6 (replace water mains in the center of town from Highland Street to Brook Road) is being deferred until FY 2016; the cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. The Glendale Road, Glenview Road, Rob's Lane portion has been completed during this past summer.

3. New state regulations require that towns address concentrations of elements in the water produced at each well. Take manganese, for example; treatment is required for concentrations above 0.05mg/L; for iron, it is 0.3mg/L. Annual operating cost for treatment plants could be \$200K per plant. Licensed operator is needed to run the plant. Operation of the treatment plant might be turned over to a 3rd party service to satisfy the trained operator requirement. These operating costs must be added to future budgets once the treatment plant is built.
4. The Water Department budget for 2015 is very close to the 2014 budget at \$2.844 million; operating costs are budgeted at \$2.342 million with over \$1 million of that amount allocated to salaries. The significant variable cost element is the project work related to maintenance and capital improvements at approximately \$600K.
5. A loan program to help home owners finance improvements was discussed. Eric has \$50K in retained earnings from FY2103 that can be used. The objective is to assist home owners finance repairs such as water service leaks. WMAC voted unanimously to recommend such a program to the selectmen.
6. Next meeting is Thursday January 16th at the Community Center at 7:30pm. Agenda items will include continued review of proposed water department budget for FY 2015 and further review of priorities for maintenance and capital improvement projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor