

WMAC Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2021

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Robert (Rory) McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel – Vice Chair

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW

1. WMAC minutes for meeting held on March 18th 2021 were reviewed and approved.
2. Contract award for new Badger ultrasonic water meters from Stiles Company was not completed but is expected soon. 500 new water meters will be supplied to the Water Department within a few weeks to be used as replacements when existing meters fail.
3. Weston & Sampson continues its work to prepare proposal for service contract to install around 5000 new water meters throughout Sharon. Funding for the service contract will be voted on at Town Meeting on May 2nd. Request for proposals on the service contract will take place this summer. Start of work by the contractor may not begin until early Fall (October 2021). During the intervening months, the Water Department will install new water meters as replacements for failed units; quantity will range between 50 and 100 water meters per month.
4. There was discussion on use of retained earnings to fund various capital improvement projects, some already on WMAC's list, others to be defined in the near future. The current market for borrowing funds for this purpose is very favorable since interest rates are at all-time lows. Current account for retained earnings on hand totals \$2.246M. Current fiscal year will add between \$1M and \$1.5M to the account. The decision to use retained earnings vs. borrowing for these projects will be discussed in each situation.
5. PFAS testing at all of Sharon's water wells was performed earlier this month. Test results are expected in the near future. Weston & Sampson predicts that PFAS concentrations would most likely come from residential sources in Sharon since there has been negligible industrial activity. Neighboring towns of Foxboro and Easton have reported locations where PFAS concentrations exceed new state limits of 20 ppt.
6. The question of whether to formulate a policy for inground irrigation systems was discussed. Licensing of system installers, registration of backflow preventers and annual inspection requirements are topics that would be included. Installation of separate water meters on irrigation systems would also be a likely requirement; this would make possible separate pricing for this use of water. There is no state mandate to address this issue at present. Incentive for moving forward is to encourage best practice for water conservation.
7. Level 2 drought status in southeastern Massachusetts was declared by the state last week. Eric will take action to notify residents that use inground irrigation systems is prohibited. Hand-held hose between 5pm and 9am is the only means for lawn watering.

8. Eric Hooper submitted the following monthly report on Water Department activity:

Pumping:

30,715,000 gallons, Still about 7.4% above 5-year average for March, well below 10-year and 15-year average for March however.

Unaccounted for Water:

2,551,857 gallons for year to date; 3% is well below permit requirement.

Groundwater:

Historical trend for late March, early April shows a drop in elevation of roughly 3" for a town-wide average.

Historical average for annual data shows an increase in groundwater elevation. I would say the 3" does not indicate a statistically significant change although it does appear that spring elevations seem to be moving in the opposite direction of the elevation as an annual average.

Revenue:

Year to date \$4.4 million, on target for \$5.0 - \$5.2 million

Construction:

New Massapoag Water Tank – preconstruction clearing underway.

Heights Main – Main line installed, tested and disinfected; house service change-over underway.

RR Neighborhood Main – preconstruction subsurface exploration and design underway.

MWRA Connection – Bypass main installed to Norwood from pumpstation.

Pumpstation nearly complete.

New Water Meters – Contract documents underway, preliminary meter order in to Badger, Install bid documents in preparation.

Nitrate:

Decrease at Wells #2 and #3, slight increase at well #4, still below study trigger.

PFAS:

Well sampling underway. Initial results expected in 2-3 weeks.

9. Next WMAC meeting is May 20th 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary