

WMAC Meeting Minutes – December 16th, 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 meetings held on October 21st and November 18th 2021 were reviewed and approved. October minutes were amended to state that temporary resin filter at Well #4 will cost \$500K/year until the permanent filter treatment system is built. November minutes were amended to include Water Department report from Eric Hooper for the month of October.
2. Proposed upgrade by WMAC to existing town bylaw for Outdoor Water Use adds requirement for residential inground irrigation systems to have a dedicated inline water meter supplied and installed by the Water Department or its authorized vendor. David Crosby updated the shared document and distributed a final copy to WMAC members for review. Comments should be emailed to Chris Pimentel who will prepare the final version of the document for submission to the Select Board.
3. There was discussion on need for price increase to cover higher annual operating costs for Water Department plus new capital costs for PFAS6 filtration. Base rate increase of \$10/quarter was proposed. Water consumption rate increase of up to 5% was suggested. Last water rate increase was implemented 2 years ago. Eric Hooper will review current operating budget for Water Department and change in retained earnings for the past 2 fiscal years in order to make his recommendation to WMAC for new water price rate schedule.

4. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during November:

Pumping: 29,214,000 gallons - Slightly above last 5-year average but well below the last 10-year average. On target for 415 – 420 million gallons, roughly 20 million gallons less than 2020. Use appears to be returning to pre-quarantine levels.

UAW: Problems with radios meant mid-quarter manual reads took almost two weeks, making calculations for UAW meaningless. Full staff will read for December billing so most reads can be accomplished during the week prior to New Years.

Revenue: \$2,553,682 year to date, closely following FY2020, roughly \$500K behind FY2021 at this point. Total FY revenue should approach \$4.7 million.

Groundwater: Normal early winter, consistent with statewide findings of no drought.

Nitrate: Increase to over 6mg/L at Well #4. Collection protocol was altered after the addition of the PFAS treatment; trying to return to previous protocol to be consistent.

PFAS: Well #4 treatment working properly – no sign of constituent breakthrough. PFAS concentrations at other wells do not demonstrate any obvious signs of seasonality.

Projects: Meter installation bids are due Wednesday. By December 15, I should have an estimate (pre-vetting) for the WMAC meeting on Thursday December 16.

Massapoag Ave Tank – still waiting on the tank pan delivery. Meeting with the vendor scheduled for Thursday to discuss schedule and possible penalty.

MWRA Pump Station – siding going up, electrical/SCADA work ongoing, heater installed.

5. Next WMAC meeting is January 19th at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call. There is a possibility that meeting will be rescheduled for January 12th if needed to address final wording for irrigation bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor