

## WMAC Meeting Minutes – January 20th, 2022

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 zoom meeting held on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 were approved.
2. David Crosby sent final version of proposed bylaw on inground irrigation systems to Eric who will submit to town counsel for review. Select Board must then approve inclusion of the bylaw as a warrant article for vote at the next town meeting. The bylaw will authorize the Water Department to install water meters on residential inground irrigation systems so that water consumption for this purpose can be monitored.
3. There was continuation of discussion on need for price increase to cover higher annual operating costs for Water Department plus anticipated capital costs of \$16M for new PFAS6 filtration system. Base rate increase of \$10/quarter will increase annual revenues for Water Department by \$200K. Eric proposed adjusting middle water block rates to provide an additional \$100K in revenue. Concern for national inflation rate at 7% gives cause to consider \$200K target increase in revenue for adjustments to block rates. There was also debate on whether to adjust all block rates. Revenue planning should consider increases that will be needed over the next 3 years because the impact of the capital cost for the PFAS filtration system is substantial and will require further adjustments in both base and block rates. Eric will present proposal for rate increases at next WMAC meeting.
4. The proposed new PFAS treatment system will have 3 phases:
  - a) Treat water from Wells #4 and #2 at the Well #2 site to filter PFAS 6 family chemicals. Also treat for nitrate removal. Cost is \$8.6M
  - b) Remove iron and manganese as well at Well #2 site. Cost is \$7.2M
  - c) Treat water from Well #3 at Well #2 site. Cost is \$3.4M

Eric recommends that first two phases proceed asap. Consideration for third phase will depend on need for future use of Well #3.

ARPA grant of \$5M is anticipated to help reduce cost to town for PFAS treatment system. Expenditure of \$10M in new capital costs will increase annual expense to Water Department by \$500K.

Choice of filter – carbon vs. resin – is still under consideration.

Booster pump will be installed at Well #4 to increase capacity from 500K GPD back up to 1M GPD. Installation of temporary PFAS filter has reduced throughput.

5. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during December:

Groundwater: normal/high

Nitrate: above 5 mg/L at #4 with data jumping around. Nitrate removal will be one of the design considerations for PFAS treatment.

PFAS: Currently only using wells #4, #5 and #7, all with PFAS either not detected, 0.0 ug/L or considerably below standard

Pumping: Max day: December 1,075,000 gallons

Month: 29,489,000 gallons – still slightly above pre-quarantine levels

Year: 418,306,000 gallons – approaching pre-quarantine levels

UAW 9.06% Meets permit requirement even tho correction for confidently estimated amounts (hydrant flushing) not included

Hydrant flushing took place both Spring and Fall (approximately 10 million gallons of 38 million gallons of unbilled amount)

Revenue: YTD \$2,692,621 for expected annual of \$4.7 million

Used \$4.9 million estimate for revenue for FY22 budget prep.

Proposed budget w/o PFAS was \$4.4 million.

PFAS expenses will likely exceed FY21 and FY22 reserve transfers (\$400,000) plus state grant (\$150,000), possibly requiring use of retained earnings.

Construction: Tank: finally moving forward. Construction meeting Wednesday for schedule.

Pump Station: minor changes to interior, will be completed by spring.

Meters: install award Tuesday – project finally moving forward with supply of meters.

FY23 Budget: Not for public discussion at this point – presentation to Select Board February 1 (tentative). For internal review only, do not share.

6. Discussion on EPA guidance for potential future regulations on unregulated substances will continue at next meeting. David Crosby directed our attention to EPA Release UCMR 5 listing 29 PFAS substances.

7. Next WMAC meeting is February 17th at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor