

WMAC Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair
Paul Lauenstein
Rory McGregor – Secretary
Chris Pimentel
Sarah Windman

Guest: Eric Hooper – Superintendent, Sharon DPW

1. Minutes of the April 24th meeting were approved.
2. Revenue is running on target to meet budget projections at \$2.9 million. Eric will propose a uniform increase for each usage rate block to the selectmen to go into effect on January 1, 2015. The basic structure will remain the same. The objective is to get annual revenue up to \$3.2 million in order to provide funding for capital projects on the Town Water Master Plan. Note that we have not adjusted the target of \$3.2 million for inflation over the past 3 years.
3. Eric continues to review the Town Water Master Plan with its 20 year horizon to determine how far we have progressed. The remainder of the Billings Street water pipe upgrade will be bid in this quarter and contracted in the next quarter.
4. Eric is not satisfied with the billing system used to send out water bills. The system is not user friendly. He would prefer a web based system which shows consumption trends for the household and promotes conservation measures being promoted by the town. The Water Department will explore alternative billing systems.
5. A revised Brickstone project proposal was voted down at the Town meeting earlier this month. The proposed development changed from the original senior citizen community to 98 single family homes with 3.5 bedrooms each on 1/2 acre lots. One third of the acreage is a cluster development involving the new homes. Two thirds is a potential conservation land opportunity for the town involving both a gift of land from the developer and a purchase of a smaller quantity of land from the developer.

This remains a WMAC issue because of the water system requirements, should this new community be proposed again.

6. Pumps at all wells are ready to operate for the upcoming summer. Groundwater is above normal levels. Spring time has not yet put significant demand on our water system due to rainfall and cooler than normal weather conditions during April.

Pumping is running normal for this time of year. Unaccounted for water is still running high, perhaps around 11 to 12% of the water pumped each month per Eric's calculation. 30 million to 70 million gallons per year out of 470 million gallons pumped on average

per year over the last few years is the unaccounted for quantity. Eric will put together a historical graph on unaccounted for water.

There was discussion on how the wells would be put on line this summer. As expected, well #4 is first on and last off with #5 always on. Well # 4 produces over 40% of the water and well #7 is the second biggest producer. Well #3 has been cleaned but has a lot of iron. Well #2 and Well #6 are last on and first off. Nitrates are under the 5ppm number that would require further analysis.

Despite high groundwater the lake level that has been lowered due to a fanwort eradication process. Since the lake is low this spring there could be some problems with bacteria if there is a dry summer.

7. For the next meeting Eric will provide us with:

1. Proposed language concerning the establishment of a revolving fund to help water customers repair water line leaks;
2. a look at some preliminary water billing rate changes;
3. a spreadsheet based on pumping, billing and unaccounted for water over the last three years;
4. information about changing the format of the water bill.

Eric will give us a report on changes to the Master Plan because the committee should be on the record as approving these changes.

8. Next meeting is Thursday June 19th at the Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor