

WMAC Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2014

Attendees: David Crosby - Chair, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Paul Lauenstein, Rory McGregor - Secretary

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent, Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from the September 18 meeting were approved as amended.
 2. The hydraulic model has pointed out new problem areas in our water distribution network that will require valve replacement.
 3. Next meeting will discuss the Water Department budget proposal for FY2016 (July 2015 – June 2016). Included for capital expense will be the beginning of the project for emergency MWRA connection via Norwood; estimated expense for the first part of the project is \$600K. Also included will be the continuation of the Brook Road upgrade for water main replacement, which will cost approximately \$1.3 million.
 4. Revenue for FY15 will be \$3.2 to \$3.4 million. The public hearing for the proposed water rate increase that takes place in January 2015 is scheduled for the selectmen's meeting on Tuesday October 28th. The estimate for incremental revenue generated by the rate increase is 3.5% which keeps pace with inflation and provides funding for capital expenditures identified above.
 5. Dave Hearne brought up the need to put water department reports on line to satisfy the requirement for public access. Eric was encouraged to hire an intern and start the process of getting records scanned.
 6. Total pumping for this calendar year will be on the order of 470 million gallons, which will be the third lowest year on record.
 7. Unaccounted for water is now around 10% of total pumping for the month, which is an acceptable number for municipal water loss.
 8. Groundwater levels show no significant difference from earlier years, despite the dry August and September months. Reduced pumping at Well #4 has had the positive effect of producing a reduction in the depth to reach groundwater.
 9. The water conservation program for Sharon will be presented at an upcoming meeting. Nancy Fyler will be invited to report on the education initiatives in the Sharon schools.
- Eric will approach the Water Smart program to schedule a webinar for the WMAC. He cautions that the expense to engage their services for Sharon alone will be a very expensive proposition. He will discuss the idea of a regional initiative with Ian Cooke at Neponset River Watershed Assoc to investigate whether we might collaborate with other towns. One desired result of working with Water Smart is to add water use history to each water bill sent to the consumer.
10. Paul Lauenstein will approach MAPC to speak with the WMAC about setting up the utility to address storm water control strategies.

11. We need to add up to 3 members to WMAC to bring the committee back up to its full strength of 9 members. David Crosby will confirm the open positions and request the town to post notices for the open positions.

12. The next meeting will be November 20th at 7:30pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor