

WMAC Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2017

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, Chris Pimentel – Vice-Chair, Mark Altabet, Anne Carney, Lealdon Langley, Rory McGregor - Secretary

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from the September 21 2017 meeting were approved.
2. The following proposed policy will be presented to the selectmen by Eric for their approval within the next 60 days. Public health concerns are the reason for this new policy. Home owners with in-ground irrigation systems will be required to install backflow preventers. The Water Department will notify home owners that they have one year to come into compliance with this new policy. An annual inspection by a certified inspector might also be required; this could be a representative from the service company that turns the system on in the spring time.

The website registration program for home owners with in-ground irrigation has resulted in approximately 500 sign ups. Eric estimates that there are 1000 homes in Sharon with irrigations systems. The ultimate objective for policy on residential water irrigation systems could be installation of dedicated water meters. Then water consumed via this means could be charged at a rate specific for this type of use.

Eric has distributed a check list of items for residential irrigation systems that could be reviewed by the certified irrigation system inspector. He invited comments from WMAC members.

Discussion on best installation practice for backflow preventer – indoors or outdoors – was inconclusive. More research is needed.

3. Eric awarded contract to Weston & Sampson for detailed design of pump station and piping for the emergency water connection to Norwood. Negotiation with MWRA and Norwood for water supply thru their town will take place over the next year.

4. Walpole met with Norwood to obtain a permanent connection to MWRA for their town. It does not appear that Sharon and Walpole are in a position to jointly approach Norwood/MWRA for better bargaining power.

5. Revenue: water sales are down approximately \$60,000 over last year for the first quarter (water use during April, May and June). Some of this shortfall was made up through other revenue sources. However, water sales for the past quarter (July, August, September) is down approximately \$60,000. Some of this shortfall will be made up through other revenue sources as well. However, this could translate into an annual reduction in revenue of \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Next year's budget (2018-2019) was going to be predicated on revenue of \$3.8 million. Projection for revenue at current consumption rate is \$3.4 million, consequently, a water rate increase must be considered. Eric's initial thought is to propose a \$5/quarter base increase that will generate an additional \$1000,000 and an increase in blocks 2, 3 and 4 that will increase revenue by an additional \$200,000+.

Dave Hearne argued that all blocks should participate in the rate increase. WMAC feels that there should be a larger cushion in revenue generation to compensate for these potential shortfalls.

6. Replacement of Massapoag water tank at \$1.5 million is scheduled in the Water Master Plan for 2018. Eric is including this item in the budget for 2018-2019.

7. Next meeting will take place Thursday November 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary