

WMAC Meeting Minutes for November 21st 2019

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Robert McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel – Vice Chair

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW

David Crosby called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Minutes from the October 17th meeting were approved as presented.

1. Discussion of plans for selecting a new water meter reading system:

Last time that residential water meters were replaced, the procurement process was found to be faulty when losing bidder protested the award. The RFP process was repeated.

RFP this time will be design/build contract. Chris Wheeler's company – Envocore – has offered to provide consulting assistance to put together the proposal for a town wide system for water meter replacement. He recommends that Sharon procure the water meters separately. WMAC could also involve Weston & Sampson as consultant.

WMAC needs to decide on communications system that will tie the water meter network together; choices include wifi, radio relay, cellular, hardwire, googlefi, satellite, 5G. We need to ask Badger and Neptune, water meter manufacturers, why they incorporate specific communications technologies at present and what they are predicting for future networks .

WMAC will discuss our needs with MUNIS to see what they are doing to support water consumption data gathering and analysis. WMAC will also pursue discussion with WaterSmart.

Eric will investigate towns that have recently upgraded their residential water meter networks: Medford, etc. MWRA may also be a source of useful information.

WMAC will pursue discussion with manufacturers of water meters: Kamstrup (drive by low power radio), Neptune (drive by low power radio), Badger (cellular)

2. Report of the Water Department – E. Hooper.

- a. Pumping: on target for 410M gal for 2019

- b. Water Sources – MWRA emergency water supply thru Norwood necessitates warrant for town meeting in May: \$150K/yr fee to Norwood for 10 years.
Massapoag tank construction will take place in spring/summer 2020
- c. Water Infrastructure – continuing water main replacement in Heights
- d. Conservation – WaterSmart tool for residents will come in future
- e. Groundwater – high to normal for this time of year
- f. Nitrate 4.28mg/L for Nov at Well #4
- g. UAW: 8% YTD
- h. ZBA – tank replacement presentation in Dec

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McGregor

WMAC Secretary