

WMAC Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2020

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 meetings held on June 18 and July 23 were approved.
2. Discussion on forthcoming RFP for water meter replacement throughout town focused on life cycle cost analysis for both the meter modules and the network equipment needed for data transmission/analysis. Eric will work with our consultant Weston & Sampson to generate wording in RFP that requires bidders to identify cost to the town for failures exceeding warranty guarantee from the 10th year after the system is installed to the 20th year. This effort may delay issuance of RFP to sometime in October.
3. WMAC moved to appropriate an extra \$1.5M for the Massapoag Ave Water Tank replacement project. At present \$2.5M has been appropriated. Other funds that had been earmarked for this project reverted to retained earnings for the Water Department's last fiscal year ended June 30th. Bids on this project received from potential contractors have been close to \$4M, which is higher than originally estimated. Relocation of the tank at the intended site delayed the contract award and geotechnical investigation of soil/rock conditions resulted in structural improvements to the design plan for the tank.
4. The project for emergency connection to MWRA water supply through Norwood received favorable bid of \$2.5M compared to initial budget estimate of \$3.1M. This will allow reallocation of excess monies to the Massapoag Ave tank project.
5. Eric advised that the State Drought Task Force within DEP has issued Level 2 drought warning throughout the state. Increased water use restrictions required by the state include turning off in ground irrigation systems. Property owners may use only hand-held hose for watering lawns, gardens, fields. WMAC moved that the Select Board authorize the Water Department to communicate this new water use restriction to all town residents and businesses as soon as possible. Eric will write memo to Select Board on this issue requesting their approval for Water Department to implement the new restriction.
6. Eric's report on Water Department activity for month of July 2020:

Pumping

51,729,000 gallons – highest since 2016 (2016 was the lowest in 20 years; years following were even lower). On target to pump approximately 430 million gallons for the year.

UAW:

7.25 percent for the month, 8.10 percent for year to date - well within permit requirement.

Revenue

\$108,000 for month, low but given it is the 1st month of the quarter, not unexpected.

Nitrate:

Slight drops at both Well #4 and Well #2, both well below 5 mg/L study trigger.

Groundwater elevation:

Normal for mid-summer. Groundwater monitoring wells have not exhibited extreme drops in water levels compared to earlier years dating back to 1999.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary