

WMAC Meeting Minutes for October 15, 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; Rob Terpstra – Water Department Supervisor, Sharon DPW; Margaret McCarthy - Consultant, Weston & Sampson; Rebecca Gonsalves - Consultant, Weston & Sampson.

1. WMAC minutes for meeting held on September 17th were approved.
2. Discussion on schedule for RFP to replace water meters throughout Sharon targeted Nov 12th as date for proposal submission from potential vendors. Weston & Sampson will review all proposals to ensure that vendors meet all requirements to be considered for the award. (Subsequent to the WMAC Meeting, Eric received feedback from vendors that more time was required for proposal preparation. Revised schedule for RFP proposed by Eric appears in attached document issued on Nov 2nd.)
3. Sharon Town Meeting held on October 12th voted to appropriate an extra \$1.5M for the Massapoag Ave Water Tank replacement project. \$2.5M had already been appropriated. Bids from contractors were around \$4M, higher than originally estimated. Reasons for added cost: relocation of the tank at the intended site, geotechnical findings on soil/rock conditions requiring structural improvements to the design plan for the tank.
4. Work on the project for emergency connection to MWRA water supply through Norwood has started. Construction of pump house on Tiot Street in Sharon and laying of water main pipe on Summer Street in Norwood are in progress.
5. State Drought Task Force within DEP has just issued Level 3 drought warning. Increased water use restrictions include no outdoor watering whatsoever. WMAC asked the Select Board after WMAC's September meeting to communicate Level 2 water use restrictions to all town residents and businesses. Eric reported that the Water Department posted the Level 2 notice to the Water Department website but does not have resource to communicate directly with all Water Department customers on short notice. WMAC will discuss how to handle emergency public relations notices with Select Board and Town Administrator.
6. Rory proposed that Sharon consider implementing a Stormwater Utility to finance its stormwater management program required by State MS4 regulations. Eric reported that DPW should be able to finance the necessary work on an as-you-go basis for the immediate future. Sharon's ongoing investment in several capital projects (recently completed town hall, high school replacement, library replacement) would most likely cause townspeople to vote down a utility proposal.

Current efforts by DPW include inspection of all catch basins, elimination of illicit discharges, intern performing dry weather sampling, and bylaw preparation due for completion by July 1st 2020.

7. Eric's report on Water Department activity for month of September 2020:

Monthly Pumping: 51,331,000 roughly 10% higher than 5,10-year average, but consistent with past few months in being 10% higher than the past several years. Maximum day for the month was 1.7 million gallons, 300,000 less than the August max.

UAW: 7.17% for year to date.

Revenue: \$1.443 million for July- September quarter, roughly 20% higher than last year.

Groundwater – seasonal normal. Some locations approaching 20-year lows.

Phase 3 Water Mains - Heights

- Final plans and specs, 11/18
- Advertise, 11/25
- Documents available, 12/2
- Electronic bid opening on Thursday, 12/17 at 11:00 AM

8. Next WMAC meeting is November 19th at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary