

WMAC Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2021

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

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW

1. WMAC minutes for meeting held on June 17th 2021 were reviewed and approved.
2. The Water Department installed an ion-exchange resin filter at Well #4 to remove PFAS6 family chemicals from groundwater pumped into Sharon's public water system. Well #4 came back online during the first week in July operating at 50% of max capacity or 500K gpd (gallons/day). The filter is leased at a cost of \$250K for every 6-month period of use. Granulated carbon filter is the preferred alternative to the resin filter, but it is not currently available. Longer term plan is to switch to granulated carbon, perhaps by summer 2022.
3. Water use restrictions limiting residents to hand-held hose for outdoor watering have been lifted by the Select Board, who serve as the Water Department Commissioners. There was discussion about the need to communicate these policy changes to residents on a timely basis. When the restrictions were established due to shutdown of Well#4 in early May, residents did not receive notification until the end of May. Given today's available technology for rapid communication, WMAC requests the Water Department to update its communications policy and specify timely deadlines for notifying customers.
4. The Water Department is working with Environmental Partners Group, an independent consultant, to identify long term solutions for treatment/removal of PFAS6 chemicals in the groundwater at Wells #4 and #2.
5. IFB (Invitation For Bid) to install new residential water meters has not yet been awarded. The Water Department has a limited quantity of new Badger ultrasonic water meters to replace old meters that have failed. Shortage of computer chips to build the new ultrasonic meters has delayed delivery date for most of the purchase to late Fall.
6. Imminent installation of new residential water meters throughout Sharon provides the concurrent opportunity to equip inground irrigation systems with a separate water meter to monitor water usage for lawns. If we can pass a bylaw at next town meeting, WMAC can address pricing structure for lawn watering which is the major factor affecting increased residential demand for water during summer months. Eric will provide copies of bylaws that have been implemented in other towns. Dave Hearne and Rory McGregor will review and come up with a draft proposal for Sharon's new bylaw.
8. Eric Hooper submitted the following report on Water Department activity during July:

Pumping: 42,743,000 gallons, 3rd lowest, aided by water use restrictions
 1.914 million gallons – maximum day

205.1 million gallons year to date, slightly less than last year, on target for 430 million gallons (5th lowest annual total)

UAW: 6.86% - well under permit limit

Operating Capacity: 1.9 MGD with Well #2 off, Well #4 at 500,000 gallons per day (1/2 permitted) and well #5 at 250,000 gpd (drawdown limiting)

Groundwater: Normal

Construction: MWRA Pump Station, Pumps installed, SCADA wiring underway, mains installed and pressure tested, disinfection to follow SCADA.

Massapoag Tank, Final Pedestal ring to be installed next week.

RR Neighborhood Phase 2 water main upgrade design complete. Bidding to be held until winter for spring construction – pricing and pipe availability.

Meter bid may be rebid – backlog of project led to uncertainty in schedule and impacted cost.

PFAS treatment, temporary system installed and in operation, permanent system design underway, current estimated budget \$3 million.

Revenue: End of FY21 Estimated: \$5.511 revenue with \$4.217 expenses

FY21 estimated balance: \$1.294 million (to be certified and available this Fall)

Currently certified available retained earnings: \$2.864 million

Recommended Balance Policy 3-4 months or \$1.0 – \$1.4 million retained earnings (including reserve fund in operating budget).

PFAS Report: update memorandum to Select Board, Discussion Powerpoint, Well #4 vicinity map

9. Next WMAC meeting is August 19th 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary