

WMAC Meeting Minutes, 05/19/2022

Attendees: David Crosby, Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Chris Pimentel

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent – Sharon DPW; Paul Pietel, Government Study Committee

Chair Crosby opened the meeting at 7:34 PM.

The minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting were approved.

David Crosby said that Paul Pietel, a member of the Government Study Committee, will be joining the meeting later to get the committee's views on a couple of issues that his committee is gathering information on.

Eric discussed the two items that had recently passed at town meeting: the PFAS Treatment System and the Outdoor Water Use By-Law. Funding for the PFAS treatment system would be funded through a \$5.5M grant and perhaps an SRF loan at a low interest rate, perhaps even 0%. The Total amount could be as high as \$18M if well #3 is included in the proposal. The design plan for wells 2 and 4 is in process but the decision hasn't been made whether to include well 3. Discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of treatment at well 6. There was discussion on potential lawsuits against companies that caused PFAS pollution.

There was some discussion on comparing the cost of joining the MWRA versus the cost of treating the PFAS locally. In the long term, what choice would be best in terms of water quality and taste? MWRA treats with chloramine not chlorine. MWRA assessment is based on previous year usage. Water Department would still be responsible for maintenance and repairs.

The Outdoor Water Use By-Law passed at Town Meeting with a minimum of discussion. The regulations will contain the specific details on how the irrigation system meets compliance with the by-law. The Committee decided that it needed to wait until the irrigation meters were installed and resulting data analyzed before setting irrigation rates. As the meters are installed the installers will compile a list of homes with irrigation systems. At this time there is no comprehensive list of what properties have irrigation systems.

It was suggested that the newly elected Select Board member Kiana Pierre-Louis be invited to the next tour of the well sites and water system buildings.

Dave Hearne brought up the idea of reviewing the Master Plan. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

A succession plan for Eric, who anticipates retiring in 3-5 years, will also be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Eric reviewed his April water report :

- Water usage is up for the 4th consecutive month
- UAW is at 12% for the month and 9% year to date not adjusting for hydrant flushing
- Revenue is on target for \$4.8M
- Nitrate levels are typical for this time of year
- The filter for PFAS will be replaced a month early
- The new Massapoag water tank is on scheduled for going into service by June 7

- The new pump station on Tiot Street for the emergency connection to MWRA water through the town of Norwood will be fully tested in early June
- New water meter installation is moving forward
- The Pleasant St main replacement will be bid the week of June 6. Pipe is really expensive and the bids will probably come in high.
- PFAS treatment is under design and Environmental Partners will give a presentation to the Standing Building Committee on June 24th

At 9:15 pm Paul Pietel joined the meeting and asked for the committee's views on two items:

1. Should the Select Board have 5 members or stay at 3?
2. Should the form of governance change?

Paul thanked the committee for its input.

The next WMAC meeting was set for June 16th.

With no further business before the committee a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
Adjournment at 9:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Carney