

## WMAC Meeting Minutes – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

### Guests:

Eric Hooper – Superintendent, Department of Public Works

Ira Miller – Finance Committee

1. David Crosby opened the virtual WMAC meeting via Zoom at 7:33pm.
2. Meeting minutes for January 18<sup>th</sup> were approved 6-0-1.
3. Eric presented his proposal for water rates to take effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

### Current Rates and Proposed Increase:

Capital Project Fee	Residential		Other	Irrigation Only
	Spring/Summer	Fall/Winter		
	\$85 + \$15	\$85 + \$15	\$85 + \$15	\$85 + \$15
0-4,000 gallons	\$5.50	\$4.75	\$5.00	\$10.50
4,000-6,000 gallons	\$8.75 + \$1.00	\$7.75 + \$1.00	\$6.50 + \$2	\$10.50
6,000-16,000 gallons	\$11.50 + \$1.00	\$10.25 + \$1.00	\$7.50 + \$1	\$11.50
16,000-25,000 gallons	\$13.50 + \$1.00	\$12.75 + \$1.00	\$8.00 + \$1	\$13.50
>25,000 gallons	\$15.75 + \$1.00	\$14.75 + \$1.00	\$8.50 + \$1	\$15.75 + \$1

The Capital Project fee, a base rate paid by all customers to support infrastructure costs, increases from \$85 to \$100 per quarter. The water rate fee per 1,000 gallons increases by \$1.00 except as noted in the above chart. The break point between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> blocks changes from 17,500 gallons to 16,000 gallons, which moves some customers into a higher water rate category.

Anticipated annual revenue for FY24-25 with this new rate structure will be \$6.7 million. The proposed Water Department budget is around \$6.4 million.

4. Discussion on use of the Water Department's retained earnings, currently at \$3.9 million, was debated. Two reasons to avoid taking this approach at present convinced WMAC to table the idea:
  - a) The State recommendation for Enterprise businesses is to maintain the retained earnings account at 50% of the operating budget, in this case \$3.2 million.
  - b) The project for the PFAS treatment plant has not gone to bid yet. Best approach is to hold onto all retained earnings until the project is complete in 2026 for use in covering overages.
5. WMAC voted 7-0-0 to approve the proposed water rate schedule.

6. David Crosby advised that the Select Board forwarded a proposal prepared by neighbors in the Tree Lane/Pine Grove neighborhood on recommended mitigation measures for consideration during the construction project for the PFAS treatment facility. This topic will be on the agenda for the next WMAC meeting.

The Standing Building Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals will have oversight responsibility for the suggestions made in the neighborhood proposal. Formation of a citizens advisory committee on mitigation measures is one idea for allowing formal input of these recommendations to the oversight committees.

7. Discussion on a new Water Master Plan will continue at the February 15<sup>th</sup> WMAC meeting. Eric will email the existing Master Plan to WMAC members. Weston & Sampson, consultant on the Plan, will be contacted for input on new issues to consider.

8. Elections for WMAC officers will be held at the February WMAC meeting.

9. Next WMAC meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7:30pm.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor