

Norwell Water Commission Minutes of 16 July 20

J. McInnis, Superintendent, P. Dillon, F. St. Ours, and S. Ivas attended. Also present for a portion of the meeting was D. Mangan.

The Skype meeting (organized by P. Dillon) began at 4:30 pm.

Agenda Item No.

4. **FY 21 - Special Article Planning/D. Magnan.** The meeting began with a lengthy explanation from D. Magnan regarding various standard reports, e.g., Expense Account Period Summary and Revenue Summary Report, a Balance Sheet Report (01 Jul 2019), and a General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2014 Bonds - Water Mains, 27 Mar 2014, Debt Service Schedule, as well as the Norwell Water Department proposed budget completed by J. McInnis, Superintendent, dated 15 Jul 20, and another sheet titled Fiscal Year 2021 Water Dept Budget, that includes retiring debt and remaining balances to be paid.

The Department's finances were reviewed: and the trend regarding operating in the black has reversed in the past couple of years. Reasons for this were also discussed, i.e., weather in 2019, less use of water that year, however the fiscal 2020 is too new to spot a trend. Raising rates was discussed as a mitigation possibility.

The conclusion of the discussion was that the Commission had a consensus to continue with plans for the requested two Special Articles for the July 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

The request was made to D. Mangan that the report be generated at the end of September and December of 2020, and March of 2021, so that the Commissioners could know the state of the Department's finances. This was agreed to by Ms. Magnan.

During the discussion the present bond was discussed, and the decision was made to transfer the expenditure of the water tank work to the Mains Bond, Article 22. A motion was made by F. St. Ours and seconded by S. Ivas to approve a transfer of expenses in the amount of \$111,078.73 (balance in the water bond) from Article 23 FY17 System Facilities Maintenance and Upgrades, account # 28-4501138-6050, to Capital project Article 22 FY14 Water Mains, account # 33-450-2786-6043 and voted unanimously.

3. **Water Demand and Restrictions.** J. McInnis noted that the Department is pumping about 150,000 gallons a day this year over last year's rates, most likely due to the Pandemic. He provided a snapshot of the Indian Head River Discharge, in cubic feet per second (cfs), from 02 to 16 Jul, and noted that on the 16th, earlier in the day, the discharge was at 5.11 cfs, with the min at 2.11 cfs in 1966, the max at 111 cfs in 1973. He noted that the threshold for a total ban on watering in the Town is 3.0 cfs. He also noted that some of the staff would be out during the next week to remind water wasters to shut off automatic sprinklers. It is predicted to be a hot, dry (mostly) week.

5. **Status - COVID-19 Update.** Everything is stable in Norwell, and the Town Hall is opened up for business. The Town's policy was reviewed, with masks and social separation in all offices.

As part of this discussion, the Lead (Pb) and Copper (Cu) sampling program was noted. There are 30 primary sites, and ten secondary sites that have been chosen. Sample kits will be delivered in the middle of August, and the Department will know if they are incomplete by the end of August.

J. McInnis reported that the average pH of the water is about 7.5 at all points.

2. **Minutes of 02 Jul 20 approval.** SI motioned to approve, and PD seconded, with a unanimous vote at 5:29 PM.

Additional Business.

- A. J. McInnis reported that the weather station at the Treatment Plant is up and running. He provided a link so that the Commissioners (and anyone who wishes) can see the current weather, with many more variables than the previous system, on their smartphones.

The meeting was concluded at 5:41 PM.

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