



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Water Commissioners' Meeting August 3, 2016

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager and the Superintendent updated the Board on developments surrounding the demolition and re-construction of the water storage tank on Johnson Avenue.

The Manager and the Superintendent discussed with the Board the results of the FY2017 water leak survey that they had hired Prowler Water Conservation Systems to complete for the Water Plant. Their report had revealed a total of ten (10) water service leaks of which eight (8) were present on the water customer's side of the shutoff device. The remaining two (2) had been repaired quickly by Water Plant personnel in a timely fashion. The Manager distributed to the Board a spreadsheet to better demonstrate the effects these leaks had on gallons and on revenues to the Water Plant. The estimated gallons of water lost due to these leaks were 55,000,000; the estimated revenues lost due to the same were \$111,000.

New Business:

The Manager had prepared for the Board a preliminary water sales summary broken down by rate class for the 1st quarter of FY2017. He had done this to mainly illustrate the differences in water usage rates and in water usage revenues due to the 9% increase that the Water Commission had voted into effect in November 2015. Assuming a similar level of gallons sold from the same quarter in FY2016, revenues were expected to increase by (roughly) the amount of the amount of this water usage rate increase, or by 9%.

The Superintendent informed the Board about some ongoing communications issues at the South Road Booster Station. Since the Water Plant had cut over their phone service from Earthlink to New Horizon in July the data circuit to this location had been lost multiple times, sometimes within the same day. Trouble tickets had been opened with new Horizon to address the issue and Verizon (last mile) had already had there technicians to the site at least three (3) different times for this ticket. Each Verizon trip to the South Road site did turn up a new problem for them to repair involving the integrity of the phone line serving the station.

The Manager expressed his frustration at this problem which had already cost the Water Plant much in unnecessary after-hours call-outs. However, with Verizon investing much of their efforts locally in the expansion of their FiOS network, older copper phone communication pairs were often put on the back burner. The Manager added that it did not help having Verizon's central dispatching now in Ayer rather than in Baldwinville.

At this time a roll call vote was taken as follows (8:00 p.m.):

"A motion was made by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor for the Board to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel. The Water Commission believed that if it were to have such discussions and/or conduct such strategy sessions in Open Session it would have a detrimental effect on the Water Plant's collective bargaining position. It was announced that the Board would later reconvene in Open Session but only for the purpose of Adjournment."

Dana – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris – Aye

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager