



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

## **Water Commissioners' Meeting April 6, 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 gave the Board an update on where the Water Plant stood on its USDA Loan Application status. The STM vote had passed and the Water Plant would be able to borrow the USDA loan funds and receive the grant funds and utilize short-term borrowing in the interim till the USDA closes the loan in December 2015 or in January 2016. Tighe & Bond was made aware that they may proceed with the bidding process to meet the summer construction schedule.

The Manager re-iterated that the current water rates were already at the level which they could support the coming loan debt service payments from the (roughly) \$992,000 of the USDA's \$1,239,000 that was to be borrowed. He based this on a projection of 116,000 KGAL of water to be sold for FY17 for \$12.95 per KGAL for a total revenue projection of \$1,502,200. This did not include income from other sources such as connection fees, inspection fees, hydrant fees, etc.

### **New Business:**

The Manager had provided the Board with copies of the Water Plant's 2015 Annual Statistical Report (ASR). The report showed an Unaccounted For Water (UAFW) figure of 9.3%, which was within the MA DEP's threshold of 15% for lost water in a single calendar year. The Manager and the Superintendent had worked together on the spreadsheet used so that they could maximize the gallons of accounted for water more each calendar year. The lowest reported UAFW figure for the Water Plant was 7.0% for 2013.

Relevant to the most recent ASR, the Manager had expressed interest to the Superintendent in hiring a consultant to do a full-blown leak detection survey. Their goal was to minimize the amount of gallons lost due to small leaks in water mains or in water services. The Superintendent was familiar with companies who would perform such a study for a fee in the \$7,000 range, and the Manager felt this was worth it since every KGAL of water lost was equivalent to the Water Plant losing roughly \$13. The Board agreed so the Superintendent would look into it further (when he returned from a workers' compensation absence due to a shoulder injury).

The Superintendent informed the Board about the adjusted Hydrant Flushing schedule for the Spring 2016, as the Fall 2015 Hydrant Flushing had been greatly reduced due to a lack of manpower. Only about half of the 445 hydrants had been flushed at this time, but all 445 of them would get done for certain this spring, particularly with the addition of another full-time water employee.

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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Driscoll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

General Manager