



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Water Board Meeting

March 8, 2023

Members present were: Chairman Dana Blais
Clerk/Secretary Chris Stewart

Employees present were: General Manager [GM] John Driscoll
Scott Schwinger [WS] Water Superintendent
Business Manager [BM] Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The minutes January 11, 2023 were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) updated the Board that the Old Royalston Rd Culvert. Dana asked when the project will start, the GM said the project begins in the spring. He said that this project will go quickly with 80% of the job scope being earth work. The Water Plant did short-term financing through the Town for the \$500,000 they thought they'd need to complete it. The GM said we can be reimbursed at the project's end from a state grant for \$503,225 thanks to Senator Anne Gobi.

The GM discussed the Main St Bridge project with the Board. Right now Tighe & Bond has those plans 75% complete. The Town has sought a state grant for up to \$3,000,000 but have not received the approval yet. The Water Plant would be able to use a portion of these funds to cover our costs for the water main re-location, so we are hoping the state comes through for the Town. The total project cost should be reduced now that the water main will only go 200' from the bridge rather than the original 600'. The WS explained that their going only the extra 200' to gate valves on both sides is sufficient and meets environmental criteria for the future if additional work is needed on Main St.

The GM discussed with the Board the Maple St/School St/Vernon St water main projects. He said that the plans had changed for the Cottage St end of School St due to the work being done by the Town, who is working with a grant writer to obtain CDBG funding to cover costs for Cottage St and Vernon St. The GM agreed to cover the cost of engineering and design costs for Vernon St, which should be minimal for the dead-end road with about 800' of water main. The CDBG application was submitted by the Town this week.

The GM gave to the Board copies of the documents needed to proceed with the Pb Service Line project mandated by the state now. Both the GM and the WS feel comfortable that there are no Pb services in Templeton since the water system was put in place in the 1950s when the dangers of Pb were already well known. But the Mass DEP was requiring those systems with Pb services to take inventory of them and mitigate. Those without Pb services like us would basically have to prove that there were none in Templeton by doing excavation of (some) services at locations to be chosen by Mass DEP. As usual, Tighe & Bond would navigate us through this project and assist us in the proper record-keeping necessary to receive up to \$200,000 in grant reimbursement from the state.

Thus far we have given Tighe & Bond copies of all of our service tie cards and they should be able to find out where the Mass DEP would have us excavate. Tighe & Bond has informed us that the \$200,000 is now a grant rather than a reimbursement, which could mean getting paid as the project progresses rather than all at projects end. The GM required a board vote to authorize him to sign the necessary project documents and a board signature on the certification form to get them back to Tighe & Bond so they can proceed. At this time a vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to authorize the GM to sign documents for the Lead Service Line Project."

Chris – Aye

Dana – Aye

New Business:

The GM discussed with the Board changing of TMLWP office locks. Dana felt that after 20 years it would be a good idea and Chris agreed. The GM did say he would like to keep all of the keys the same such that any one key can access any room. Dana suggested maybe doing code pads instead of the keys. Chris stated that these code pads can be problematic if they fail, as one would need to drill right through it to open the door. The LS said that he would acquire a locksmith and get it done soon.

The GM told the Board that right now our Q3 FY2023 Water Sales are right on target for sales and revenue, and we looked to be at 76% of this year's fiscal operating budget.

Other Business:

Dana asked that the WS submit a letter to Senator Anne Gobi regarding the East Templeton roundabout to be installed. He'd like him to mention our concerns with construction activities going on there disturbing the 70-year-old AC water mains underground. Of particular concern were the vibratory rollers used to level the ground before paving was done. The WS said that all of these water mains and service lines needed to be replaced with DI pipe and/or re-located, otherwise a water main break at the roundabout would be a disaster. Also, with new construction like this came concrete and masonry areas that would be destroyed by a water main break at the flow so close to Sawyer St WTP, and the Water Plant could not be responsible for the repairs needed beyond the asphalt repair. The GM said that in the past large projects such as this one would come with several meetings with municipal utilities like electric and water in order to make sure that no utilities need be moved due to their proximity to proposed construction. The WS will get the letter off soon and share it with the GM and the Board.

The WS brought with him a quote from a local contractor to do some work at the Willow St Well Site for some much-needed door/window replacements. The quote was for \$15,000 and the GM felt that the nature of this job was that of a typical public construction project subject to procurement and would need to go out to public bid. Dana and Chris agreed.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor, the Water Board Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Driscoll
General Manager