



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Water Commissioners' Meeting
May 6, 2021**

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

Employees present were: General Manager [GM] John Driscoll
Water Superintendent [WS] Ron Davan
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 Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The GM stated that he was waiting on the third draft for the Board from the current T&B water rate study results. The GM and WS had a conference call with them regarding their idea of putting the bulk of the water rate increase to rate classes other than residential. They explained to the Board that we lack the necessary commercial/industrial retail water usage in town to absorb the majority of any large water rate increase that we put into place. The GM emphasized the difficulty in explaining to commercial/industrial water customers the need to increase their bill by 40%-80% while residential water customers were seeing a 7% increase. Now that the Alternative B has been passed over there is only Alternative A to concern ourselves with, which the GM felt he'd have updated results for in a few more days from T&B. The June meeting would likely be attended by one or two people from T&B, and the Board and GM will be walked through their new proposed water rates.

New Business:

The GM informed the Board that he won't have a draft water budget completed FY2022 budget until we know what the water rate increases will be.

The GM discussed with the Board some work to be performed at Willow St Well Site. He said Maher Services was called to come in to replace the finish pump and associated communications equipment at a cost of about \$53,000. Dana asked how long the well be down for, the WS said about 2 weeks; it should take 5 weeks for the supplies to come in once we issue Maher a purchase order. The WS had pictures of the current pump now and explained how it is getting air in it. The old pump was a 50 HP straight-drive unit and will be replaced with a 30 HP variable-frequency-drive unit. This newer unit will operate more efficiently and run for less time, resulting in roughly a 30% savings in the site's electricity costs. Dana asked the age of the existing pump and the WS answered that it was 25 years old.

The WS shared with the Board our results from the 2020 Sanitary Survey. This time around there were many points of contention that the new Mass DEP representative had brought to our attention. The TMLWP has not had her (Angela) as a representative before now. The WS cited the testing of water gate valves as an exercise they'd not had to bother with in the past; this is when the water crews would have to come up with schedules to open and close the many gate valves. They would also need to assign numbers to all of them and complete testing by July 1. The WS said that this was unreasonable to ask of a water department with only 4 employees in operations, and after asking around he'd not found one other water department who'd been asked to do this with water gate valves.

The GM told the Board that we were still working on spring hydrant flushing but should be completed in 2 weeks.

The GM had a handout of FY2021 Water sales of Q1, Q2 & Q3, with an estimated Q4. He said that our expected revenues looked to be in line with our operating budget.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor, the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager