



WATER DIVISION

86 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 20, Baldwinville, MA 01436-0020

TEL: 978-939-5323

FAX: 978-939-4309

John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Water Commissioners' Meeting

June 8, 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 Board and the GM continued their discussion on the proposed water rate structures for FY2022 thru FY2026. Tighe & Bond had sent Jeff Faulkner and Mike Schrader to attend tonight's meeting to explain their water rate study findings. They had prepared a few summary pages for the Board's review and the GM had distributed them. Dana expressed concern with the first three years' worth of rate increases totaling 32% (11%, 10%, 11%) and asked why the Water Plant needed to take in so much more money especially since the \$3,800,000* bond was paid off in FY2023 and the \$2,300,000** was paid off in FY2025. By FY2025 the Water Plant's fiscal expenses get reduced by roughly \$334,000, leaving only the two USDA loans to pay down, one by FY2038 and the other by FY2045.

Jeff and Mike both explained that these two loans that would be paid off would need to be replaced by additional/new debt to provide funding for more water projects. The CIP done in FY2014 for the Water Plant by Tighe & Bond had laid out numerous capital projects that needed to be done over the next twenty years, and at this point the Water Plant had only completed two, the Johnson Ave Water Storage Tank and Orchard Ln (via CDBG funding). The GM said that even though we had a capital improvement plan and a rate study both completed seven years ago that we weren't any further along with getting capital projects started. The Water Plant needs to bring in more revenue to build up a capital fund in order to be able to get these projects started.

Dana wanted to be sure that our water customers knew exactly why a rate increases of 11% was necessary for FY2022; the GM said he'd prepare a notification to be put on the TMLWP website before we send out water bills in late August/early September. At this point the Board seemed confident that the 11% increase in water rates was justified for FY2022. At this point a vote took place as follows:

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor, the Board voted to raise the water rates by 11% effective July 1, 2021/FY2022 in order to fund the Maple Street Water Main Project (\$1,100,000), the Maple Street Well #2 Culvert Project (\$500,000) and the Main Street Bridge Project (\$600,000).

Dana - Aye

Gregg - Aye

Chris - Aye

New Business:

The GM had prepared for the Board a preliminary water sales summary for FY2021 that showed residential gallons sold increasing +10% along with irrigation gallons +63%. Gallons for agricultural, commercial, municipal and industrial looked to be decreasing -22%. All water sold would end up increasing by +5% and be around 117,000,000 gallons. Further, at the end of FY2021 there were 32 more water services connected than at the end of FY2020.

Other Business:

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 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager