



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 DIVISION

Water Commissioners' Meeting

January 11, 2023

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana. The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor. The minutes of 10-26-22 and 12-14-22 were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) updated the Board that the Old Royalston Rd Culvert project. There were eleven (11) qualifying bids ranging from \$403,500 to \$799,500. The bid was awarded to R Bates & Sons, Inc out of Sterling, MA for the \$403,500 amount. Tighe & Bond has informed them that they won this bid for work for us and sent them a Notice to Proceed. Work should begin in April 2023 and take about six (6) weeks. The \$500,000 portion of the \$2,200,000 in total funds we'll borrow is in hand to cover these project costs.

The GM said that there had been no new developments yet for the Asset Management Program (AMP) project that Tighe & Bond was also coordinating for us.

The GM discussed with the Commissioners the Maple St Water Main project. The GM told the Board that there was some coordination needed between the Water Plant and the Town since they are pursuing a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for some road projects on School St, Cottage St and Vernon St. School St is already part of our Maple St project since there is a connection from Maple St to School St and some water main and gates that are being replaced as part of our project. The Town had added Vernon St to their list at the end on the advice from their CDBG consultant, thinking that making the project larger and more expensive makes it more attractive to those who will ultimately award a grant to the Town. The Water Plant has agreed to cover the cost of the CDBG project that relates to engineering and design of Vernon St, and make a pledge to cover the material cost of Vernon St until all of the grant funding comes through. The GM said that we are still waiting for the release of the next

installment of \$1,200,000 to be paid to the water enterprise account, which we need to proceed with our materials-only project bid. He will check with the Town to get the status on our getting these water enterprise funds. We will need about \$500,000 of the \$1,200,000 just for the project materials.

The GM informed the Board of our hiring of Miguel Valenzia a new Water Utility Specialist. The Water Superintendent (WS) stated he came with good recommendations and started with us on 1-3-23. The GM also said that with the retirements of Ron Davan and Gregg Cheney, Matt McAuliffe was hired as a new Water Laborer as of 11-2-22. The GM mentioned to the Board that Dick Blodgett has been out on Workers Compensation since October 2022. The WS did say that he hopes to have these two (2) new employees in the standby rotation within six (6) months.

New Business:

The GM mentioned to the Commissioners the Q1 & Q2 FY2023 Water Sales are right on schedule with \$979,243 for water sales and another \$73,284 for miscellaneous sales for a total of \$1,052,527. Our FY2023 water budget is \$2,001,049 so we've taken in 53% of our needed revenues halfway through the fiscal year.

Other Business:

Dana asked how our water meter replacements were progressing. The WS said that we have 700 or so water meters left to replace and we have 300 water meters in stock.

The WS said that Maher Services were here addressing the issues with Maple St Well#1 and they have discovered while cleaning the well that the motor is no good and requires replacement.

Dana asked the WS if we should be replacing the windows and door at Willow Street Well Site. The WS said he will look into pricing to do both. This year they did clean up the inside of the building and painted the floors.

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 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager