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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

## WATER DIVISION

### Water Commissioners' Meeting

**February 2, 2022**

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

Employees present were: General Manager [GM] John Driscoll  
Water Superintendent [WS] Ron Davan

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

The agenda was approved on a motion by Gregg seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor.

#### **Old Business:**

The GM informed the Board that the Risk & Resiliency Report had been completed by Tighe & Bond and he had received two (2) bound copies. This report was essentially a federal version of our previous state report, the Emergency Response Plan, and was a more high-level type of analysis of our water system. The final cost for the report was **\$13,000**.

The GM and WS discussed the proposal for the Main St Bridge Reconstruction with the Board. The Water Plant would be opting for Tighe & Bond's second of three designs, the water utility bay. They explained to the Board that the water main over the bridge would be slightly extended on either side with new ductile iron pipe and have shutoffs installed. Over the bridge, the new water main would sit by itself in a durable steel bay under the road surface. The WS said that this would be an improvement over the existing setup of the water main running above ground alongside the bridge, as it has been struck by motor vehicles in the past. The Water Plant's portion of this bridge project is expected to be around **\$550,000**. This figure was much less than before when the water main was designed to be replaced from Cardinal Ln over the Main St Bridge all the way to River Rd.

#### **New Business:**

The GM reported the FY2022 water sales to the Board from July 2021 thru December 2021. We had sold **58,000,000** gallons and collected **\$875,000** in revenues, along with another **\$70,000** in miscellaneous

revenues for a total of **\$945,000**. This was almost exactly 50% of our expense budget for this fiscal year.

The GM shared with the Board a letter he had written to Senator Anne Gobi regarding the state's issuance of the ARPA funds. In the letter he cited three (3) water plant capital projects that would greatly benefit from these ARPA funds; Patriots Rd/Sawyer St Water Main for **\$2,500,000**, South Rd Water Tank Rehabilitation for **\$1,000,000** and Depot Rd Booster Station for **\$300,000** for a grand total of **\$3,800,000**. The suggestion from Tighe & Bond was to advocate for a large project, a medium project and a small project, which the WS determined was the three (3) listed above based on asset conditions.

At long last, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has approved our design plans for the Culvert at Old Royalston Rd that leads to Maple St Well #2. Tighe & Bond did the engineering and design for the project and it is ready to go out to bid once we have secured the **\$2,200,000** that we are seeking to go out to town bond for. USACE was the last branch of approval needed for us to move forward with the bidding process.

The GM shared with the Board the proposed warrant article language that will be used at the annual town meeting in May 2022 to allow the Water Plant to borrow the **\$2,200,000** for the Main St bridge, Maple St water main and Old Royston Rd culvert projects. He emailed the language to the Town Administrator who will forward it to the Town's bond counsel for approval before it is put on as a warrant article.

The GM gave the Board a report on the Water Plant's OPEB Trust position as of December 2021. Our balance was **\$126,508** and this represented about **19%** of the Water Plant's **\$650,808** Unfunded Actual Actuarial Liability (UAAL). We will continue to contribute at least \$25,000 per fiscal year to this fund and get an updated actuarial report every two (2) years until the Water Plant is fully funded (right now that looks like FY2033).

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor, the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager