



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Water Board Meeting

May 11, 2023

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

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

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, 3-0 in favor.

The minutes of March 8, 2023 were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The GM informed the Board of an incident involving the Water Truck #33. This truck was stolen out of the driveway of the TMWP employee (R. Brown) who resides at #113 Main St in Otter River and is allowed the use of a water plant vehicle. The truck was located the following day at a motel in Winchendon. The motel manager was questioned by both Templeton Police and the WS about the suspect. Apparently, the suspect had not gotten a motel room there, but instead met with some other individuals who did have a motel room who weren't involved with the actual theft. The truck was brought back to the TMLWP garage and checked out; amazingly no tools or equipment were missing from the vehicle. But the TMWP employee's keys to the truck, the wells sites, the booster stations and treatment plant were not found. There are police reports on file but it is likely that the individual who stole the truck won't be found. The WS has already had all of the locks to wells/boosters/treatment plant changed and had to re-distribute keys to TMWP employees for a cost of about \$700.

The GM updated the Board on various projects ongoing for the Water Plant:

Maple St Water Main (includes School St and now Vernon St) – the Water Plant has already the \$1,200,000 we need to complete the Maple St and School St portions of this project, but the

Vernon St add-on was a late comer and has to do with the Town's project on School St. In order for the Town to have a better chance at getting their CDBG funding they wanted their renewal project to be bigger than just School St, so they added Cottage St and Vernon St. The Water Plant has agreed to cover the cost for engineering and design of Vernon St only, but the rest of the cost for the new water main and appurtenances should be covered by the CDBG funding.

Old Royalston Rd Culvert – work is scheduled to begin in early June and there is a pre-construction/kickoff meeting here next week. This project has a timeline of 4-6 weeks depending on weather and flood conditions. The Water Plant has \$500,000 already to be used to cover this project expense, and thanks to Senator Anne Gobi we are eligible for a project reimbursement of up to \$503,225 once it's done.

Lead Service Line Inventory/Planning – the Board voted in March to authorize the General Manager to be the one to approve expenses and sign project documents for this. Templeton's system does not have Pb services in use, so this project is less about a Pb service inventory and mitigation plan, but more about our demonstrating that we have a Pb free system.

[WS joins the meeting at 6:20.]

Main St Bridge Reconstruction – the Town is waiting to find out if they will receive the \$3,000,000 from the state to be used toward the bridge. The Water Plant would have access to (a portion of) this money should the Town be awarded the full amount.

Materials for both the Maple St, Main St and Vernon St projects have gone out to bid as of May 17 and there will be a bid opening here on June 8. Tighe & Bond believe that the material should come in around \$460,000. The GM distributed copies to the Board of the extensive material list that we've gone out to bid for.

New Business:

The GM and the WS had a discussion with the Board regarding the traffic circle to be installed in East Templeton at the intersection of Gardner Rd, North Main St, Patriots Rd and South Main St. The Water Plant has concerns with this project due to the 6" and 8" asbestos-cement water mains directly under the site for this proposed traffic circle. The WS wrote a letter of concern to Senator Anne Gobi requesting either a project delay for Mass DOT or some emergency funding for the Water Plant to re-locate water mains. She told him that the Select Board need to be the ones to decide whether or not to delay this project, so the WS then went to the Select Board meeting. Although they appreciated our concerns about the excavation in such proximity to our brittle water main pipes they did not wish to delay this project as it is 10+ years in the works.

Both the GM and the WS have been frustrated with this project from the beginning since the TMLWP was never brought into any type of utility discussion on it years before, which is the

way these forced account state projects have worked as long as the GM has been at the TMLWP. Research by the WS found that all of the needed ductile iron water main pipe and gate valves would cost us about \$30,000. The issue would be who would do the installation; we would not be able to with our staff of just five (5) employees AND we would not be considered a qualified contractor for this Mass DOT project. The WS has discussed options with one of the project engineers and the state seems willing to have their contractor do the installations for us, provided we had engineered plans and a funding source. A change order would be developed for just the replacement of the water main and gate valves only. Neither the GM nor the WS knew what this installation cost would be.

The GM told the Board that the TMWP has gotten all our employees with company-paid phones new iPhone 12 units and also has changed wireless carriers from Verizon Wireless to AT&T. There have been numerous coverage issues in town along with dropped calls in our service area here under the Verizon Wireless plan. The WS spoke with both the DPW and the Police in town and both have moved their cellular services from Verizon Wireless to AT&T. The GM said that not only will we now pay AT&T less than we are paying Verizon Wireless, but we have received credits for all of our older iPhone 10s and 11s that we traded in for the newer iPhone 12s.

The GM updated the Board on final water sales figures for Q1, Q2 and Q3 of FY2023. Total revenues were \$1,510,928 and total gallons sold were 88,946,117. Both of these figures represent 75% of all of the revenues and gallons that we had budgeted for in FY2023. He felt comfortable that TMWP was right on track to make the \$2,000,000 we needed to complete our operating budget for this fiscal year.

The GM gave the Board his proposed water budget for FY2024 for \$2,041,071. This was 2% higher (about \$40,000) than the FY2023 water budget of \$2,001,049. He said there would not be a water rate increase to meet this budget figure for next fiscal year. The Board will vote on the budget at our June meeting once they have reviewed it.

The GM had prepared a chart of sorts showing both the Fe and Mn levels at Maple St Wells 1 and 2, after getting the data from the WS from records. Going back to 2018 there is a trend for increasing levels on both elements in this water supply but the way the GM organized the data made unclear the urgency of this. He will do a more histogram-type display for the Board for presentation in June.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor, the Water Board Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Driscoll
General Manager