

## **Water Commissioners' Meeting**

August 21, 2024

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 9:07 a.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes June 26, 2024, were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor.

### **Old Business:**

The WS informed the Board that there is nothing new to report on the Asset Management Program (AMP). He said that according to Tighe & Bond (T&B) its level of completion is about 90%.

The Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) project is still happening. The WS said that the TMWP will need to prove what is in the ground for service line materials for some addresses in town, the Mass DEP hasn't offered us those addresses yet. He said that we have records of water service lines for newer developments, likely those put in after we took over the department, but not many from before that time. T&B told us at the project's start that up to \$200,000 in grant funding would be made available to us for reimbursement. The GM stated that to date we have received about \$80,000 back from the state for reimbursements for the LSLI project. The WS said that our next step will be to hire a group like GeoSearch to perform the water line service inspections using a vacuum truck, we'll just need those addresses first.

A review took place on the Maple St Water Main neighborhood project including School St and Vernon St. Caracas, the contractor, is working right now on cutting over the Maple St services to the new water main pipe and will be done in a week. Vernon St construction was completed but a successful bacteria test is still required. The WS feels that they need to flush the new water main with chlorine more to get a passing test result. He feels that Caracas is doing a great job and they have knowledgeable personnel.

The GM told the Board that our New Truck #34 Excavator has been ordered. The LS said we should expect delivery sometime in November 2024.

A discussion took place regarding the PFAs matter at hand. The GM and WS met with T&B last week regarding starting this project. The WS voiced concerns that lots of our samples for PFAs were coming back non-detectable at sample locations where the water in the main had already been combined with well water from those other than Willow St. He estimates that about 700 water customers could be affected adversely by PFAs content between Willow St Well and South Rd Water Tank. The WS is wondering if it makes sense to take samples at some of these 700 or so residential locations rather than getting water samples from hydrants, which are "dirty". Right now the Water Plant's options will be to put a PFAs treatment plant at Willow St Well or drill a new well within 200' of its Zone I; the first option will take 5 years and the second more like 10 years.

Discussing the Maple St Wells, the GM and WS think it unlikely that the Army Corps of Engineers will issue us another 50-year operating permit like we have right now, so this fact alone may force our hand. The issue here is the Fe and Mn, rather than PFAs, and options are the same here except that our drilling a new well here will have to be done somewhere else in Baldwinville rather than in the Birch Hill Dam Flood Zone.

### **New Business:**

The GM discussed with the Board the replacement of our Truck #32, the 2012 F-350 utility vehicle. He GM said they removed some of the items that were not necessary for the new truck and requested a new quote. What will be removed are the crane apparatus, the 9' plow, the outriggers and the inverter. This shouldn't be an issue since we have two other water vehicles already equipped to plow snow and one other water vehicle with a crane for pipe. The price quoted has dropped from \$136,000 to \$93,000.

At this point a vote took place as follows:

*"On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to purchase the replacement truck #32 with a 2024 Ford F-350 Utility Truck for \$93,000."*

*Dana – Aye*

*Gregg – Aye*

*Chris – Aye*

**Other:**

A water customer present in the audience asked if the GM and Board were aware of a U-Haul facility going in on Patriots Rd. There would be 2 structures, one where the POD facility will be and another with a 2-story building that will have restroom facilities and a sprinkler system. The GM said it is still early as to what they will need, but when they contact us, we will discuss the extension of water mains and connection fees.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor, the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll

General Manager