

**Water Commissioners' Meeting
October 29, 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 Jennifer [BM] Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes August 21, 2024, were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) informed the Board that TMWP has been reimbursed \$72,000 for the Asset Management Program (AMP). The GM included the AMP Tighe & Bond Capital Improvement list and Bond Debt Project results, both being expensive. TMWP may need to pay outright or apply for a bond if over \$400,000. According to Tighe & Bond (T&B) the Patriots Road replacement pipe near Glenwood Kitchens will be approximately \$10,000,000, which will be a 35% increase on rates. The GM & Water Superintendent (WS) need to look at other options. Gregg stated that another option may be to do what the Sewer Department did and that it was to vote for the funding to go onto the tax rate, the WS did and will apply for grants as well. T&B suggests doing it all at once. The GM said our rates would be through the roof and he would like to split it into 3 parts. Starting with the problem sections first. The WS explained that he was applying for a \$5,000,000 grant, that he has already sent a letter of interest but cannot apply until January. MA DOT is waiting until next year to pave Patriots Road, if they pave, there will be a 5-year moratorium in place and we will not be able to do any maintenance, only repairs.

The GM explained to the Board that the Scada System being on the top of the list, the phone lines should be replaced with cellular lines or radio lines. Rich Laviolette has different options. The Sanitary Survey also states that we need to upgrade our phone lines. Dana asked what the options are, the WS said Cellular and Radio. The GM is not interested in radio and thinks the cellular is more reliable. The GM would like to look at reliability more than the expense on this project. The WS said Rich Laviolette is suggesting radios because they are more reliable than cell services. When there is a problem it's quicker for us to contact Rich than wait on hold on a cell service line and not know when it would be addressed. The Light Superintendent (LS) said the radios are probably best with cyber security, the internet does go out sometimes.

The Water Superintendent (WS) reviewed with the Board the Maple/School/Vernon St Water Mains. The WS said 3 of the 4 mains are hooked up and live, the fourth one on Baldwinville Rd is not passing the pressure test, there is either a leak or air in the pipes. The WS said we have spent 3 days there and Caracas will have to figure it out. Dana asked if T&B has someone watching the project, the WS said T&B does have a site observer and he did not notice anything when laying the pipe. Other than this one issue the project has been going very well. The WS also stated that Caracas has installed the 4" domestic and 6" sprinkler stubs needed for the CDBG apartment project on School St.

The Lead Service Line (LSL) project is still on going. The WS said Stage one was completed on October 16, 2024, with a confirmed email from the DEP and has been accepted. Currently we have 303 service lines that are "unknown". Stage 2 considers all unknown as lead service lines, even though Templeton does not have them in Town. Coming with Stage 2 is another round of grant funding. T&B will subcontract out to a vacuum company to check these unknown service lines at the curb stops. T&B is sending are required to send letters out to all the customers that are on the unknown list. Dana suggested taking the meter off, taking a picture and looking at it, the WS said maybe that would work. The GM said they should be starting this in the Spring of 2025.

The WS informed the Commissioners that the Hospital Road tank will need to be painted within the next 2 years.

The GM stated to the Board New Truck #32 a new quote attached. The quote with the plow is \$95,262, not sure of lead time they do have 4 on site at Colonial.

At this time a vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to purchase the replacement truck #32 with a 2024 Ford F-350 Reg Cab Chassis 4X4 with plow and removed items with new quote of \$95,262."

Dana – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris – Aye

The GM and WS told the Commissioners the PFAs information has been sent to Tighe & Bond. John Malin from T&B did a site visit to Otter River and said there is plenty of room to cut trees and expand to keep the plant there.

The WS want to let the Board know that Julie Farrell and Bob May are bringing fluoride up again at the Board of Health meetings. Bob May submitted an email to the Board of Health saying we are poisoning the Town at a rate of 174% with fluoride. The WS went to the BOH meeting presenting reports and how we test our water, send water samples to the lab and send final reports to DEP and Department of Public Health, proving Mr. May's information to be false. For TMWP to stay in compliance we must add fluoride to the water, until such a time when the fluoride is voted out of the town water at annual town meeting.

The GM discussed with the Board the #21 Patriots Rd driveway repair matter. At the TMWP meeting in the Spring Eileen Burdett and Tom Royer attended the meeting regarding their shared driveway at 21 Patriots Road. Due to the water breaks on Patriots Road and Baker Lane, they claimed that the excess water has made the driveway uneven. The Board stated that they would like 3 quotes instead of the 1 they received. We now have 3 quotes to replace the driveway. The GM and WS stated that with the current driveway being over 20 years old, they would recommend possibly paying a portion not covering the whole replacement. Gregg asked if there were any pictures, the WS said no. He said the dirt does get washed down this driveway when there is a water break, the bottom of the driveway is uneven, but not buckling. The WS was waiting for a sink hole, but there were none. Gregg asked if we caused the damage; the WS was not entirely sure. The GM will contact Burdett/Royer and let them know that the Water Plant is willing to cover 50% of the driveway repair cost at this time, but not the full 100% of the lowest estimate. This will put us in good favor with water customers without accepting sole blame for the driveway's current condition.

New Business:

Joe & Dana DiMucci from 443 South Road attended the meeting regarding their vehicle damage/road gate. Mrs. DiMucci ran over something in the road and had damage to her tire and rim on her vehicle. They did have pictures of the water shut off cover that had come loose. The WS went to their home and checked the cover down the road. The WS believes a commercial vehicle may have loosened it, then when she drove over it with her front tire it moved it, resulting in the damage to her back tire. Dana Blais asked if the Water Department was working there, the WS said no not since last year. The WS did state this is very unusual and almost never happens. The GM provided the invoice to the Board for the replacement of her tire and rim.

At this time a vote took place as follows:

*On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Board voted
To reimburse Dana DiMucci for her replacement tire & rim in the amount of \$412.25 ."*

Dane – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris – Aye

The GM had handouts for the Board for Water Sales for Q1 FY2025. He stated the first quarter was billed was good at about \$600,000.

The GM provided the Commissioners with a copy of the FY2024 Water Report for the FY2025 Annual Town Report.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor, the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll

General Manager