

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting November 1, 2023

Agenda items may be taken out of order.

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Robert Sullivan, Tom Fournier, Jay Spahl, Justin Dolan, and George Patrinos.

Scott opened the meeting at 6:45 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a call to order, the meeting is being recorded.

Accept the Minutes from October 4, 2023:

Justin made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Tom seconded the motion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Scott Mello – Water Complaint: Did not attend meeting.

Possible Sewer infrastructure fee: Discussion occurred regarding the need for adding fees due to upcoming increased costs from Webster and other projects. Consensus was to keep the discussion open and re-visit at the next meeting.

Discussion regarding interaction and information sharing with other Board and Entities: Follow-up from last month's meeting, any further thoughts on this. Communication between boards has been lacking. Bob stated he saw where a 2-million-dollar sewer upgrade grant was awarded to Dudley under MassWorks. He would like to know who applied for it, the Sewer Department and Board are unaware of this.

Exception Meters: Continued from last meeting, pricing needs to be set. George will research this further.

Parts Pricing: Continued from last month's meeting, need a price list for common parts.

Webster True-up: There was a meeting held on 10/26/23 in Webster with the Webster Board. There is going to be money that is owed to Webster as we have not paid enough for flows. Scott suggested using the sewer capital line item to increase our payment to Webster by \$15,000.00 a month to help offset what we will have to pay in the true-up. This could start in November.

Tom made a motion to increase the monthly payment to Webster by \$15,000, Bob seconded the motion, discussion occurred: It was brought up that perhaps we should only pay \$10,000.00 a month to not overdraw the capital line item. Tom amended the motion to increase by \$10,000 a month. There was no second on the amended motion.

Bob asked what the advantage is to pay Webster ahead of time, they are not charging us interest and we are going to have to go to Town Meeting to move money to pay off the full bill.

A vote was taken on the motion to increase by \$15,000, all were opposed, the motion did not pass.

Next meeting with Webster will be on 1/25/24 at 6:30pm in Webster.

Indirect Costs: Last Thursday night after the Webster Meeting Scott spoke with Mr. Abrahams and asked if he would work with the Town and the Water Sewer Enterprise to modernize the Indirect Costs and he stated that back in May he was contacted by the Town about doing that and he had sent a proposal to the Town. Scott was concerned that the town was looking specifically to see if any more expenses could be charged to the Enterprise Fund, and this raised a red flag to him. A discussion occurred, Bob stated that it should be someone geared towards the Enterprise system, he will investigate and get back to the board with information.

Budget/Revenue Review: Reviewed budget, need to correct amounts on Indirect Costs.

Superintendent Report: George submitted the Superintendent Report for review. The only services left to be done are on Fairview Ave, half are already done. Flushing has become a problem due to backwashing at the treatment center. May not be able to flush the entire system like want to prior to winter. Received two quotes for fencing, going with lower of the quotes. A discussion occurred regarding the fencing around Station #1, they are looking to do the fencing at Bates Tank this year. There was an incident involving the box truck and the F150, brought the F150 to S & H to see if they could fix F150. George states that they need another truck and S & H has a used truck that he wants to purchase for \$10,000.00. Scott stated that he is not in favor of buying a 15-year-old truck. Bob stated that it is going to be a money pit. A discussion occurred regarding the used truck. Bob asked why are we buying a 2012 crew cab truck that will get 12 miles to the gallon? Jay stated buying a used truck is buying someone else's problems.

The sewer employee is not retiring in November 2023 as previously stated. In the Sewer Department there are two licensed operators for the water system. The new procedure will be to rotate them into the Water Department every other week. The board agrees that there is no need for 3 employees in the Sewer Department. Bob asked why not just pull one person back to the Water Department? How does this affect the union positions? George stated that both employees have agreed to do this. The board would like to have the job descriptions for all positions for the next meeting and to be placed as an agenda item for the next meeting. Justin also asked for the water sewer department vehicle to be listed as an agenda item on the agenda of the next meeting. The board also asked George to provide a list of vehicles for Water and Sewer, Year, make, model, mileage, and all maintenance performed.

Public/Board Comments: Scott brought up the fact that there have been a lot of calls regarding hooking up 12 Lynn Lane to public sewer. The house is being sold and has a failed septic system and there is availability to connect to town sewer in the street available to them. Bob stated that it doesn't change the law that states we cannot have any more connections at this time. Scott also stated that there will be a meeting on 11/9/23 with the Town Administrator and Jeff Faulkner to discuss Eagle Drive project, the upcoming meeting was discussed last week at the meeting with Webster.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bob seconded, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

****Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted on by the Board: ****

Posted agenda November 1, 2023, meeting at 6:30pm Room 321

Minutes from 10/4/2023

Budget and Revenues
Superintendent Report

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant