

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting March 15, 2023.

Agenda items may be taken out of order.

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Thomas Fournier, Jay Spahl, Robert Sullivan, and George Patrinos

Absent: Bill Conley

In attendance: Ora Finn

Scott opened the meeting at 6:3 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Accept the Minutes from March 1, 2023, Public Meeting: *Jay made a motion to accept the minutes for the March 1, 2023, meeting, Bob seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

Rate Increases: Scott stated that we were hoping to have additional information to be able to determine what exactly was needed for a rate increase, but we did not receive the information at this time. There was a recommendation of raising the rates 20% at this point from Brian. The primary reason for the increases is because of the Mason Rd Project, PFAS remediation and the tank rehabs. All the increases are going to pay for the debt. Tom stated he didn't think we have a choice. Bob stated that if we didn't do what the state required us to do there would be fines, and having to provide bottled water and then still ending up having to do the projects anyways. It would have been a higher cost to the Town at that point. Bob stated he still has a problem with having no budget information and no indirect costs. A discussion occurred as to not be comfortable with voting without having more information.

Tom made motion to table this discussion to the April 5, 2023, meeting to have more information on budget items, seconded by Bob, a discussion occurred about indirect costs and needing that information, a vote was then taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Tom then had a question about how we would notify the public about the rate increases. Explained it would go out by mail, social media, water sewer website and other means available.

FY2024 Budget and Budget/Revenue Review: No new information to discuss at this time.

Indirect Costs, Bills and Town Treasurer/Collector: No new information to discuss at this time.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Information: George had a meeting with Tighe and Bond and former Sewer Superintendent. There was a major SSO event a couple years ago and there was a violation with DEP. We have still been having some small issues with another SSO event recently. It was discussed that part of the problem is that the size of the mains are inconsistent and there are 45 degree and 90 degree turns within the piping after where the SSO occurs. Tighe and Bond will be doing an evaluation of this and will have a report of findings and how to correct. A discussion occurred about the size and angles of the pipes going down Prospect and Fairview.

Webster True Up: Scott stated need to try to meet with Webster to settle this. A discussion about dates occurred. Scott will be contacting Paul Brinkman to see what day/dates work for him and then Scott will send an email to Webster.

Public/Board Comments:

Bob: There is a very good AWWA training coming up next week in Washington DC which is very informative.

George: Thank you to all for your kindness and support during this difficult time. Have been hearing that at the Planning Board meetings there have been some misinformation about the Water Sewer Infrastructure and what would be required. Met with the individual who was spearheading the project in past and he was advised the water system could handle the original usage but that the infrastructure that runs on Chase Ave in front of the area is inferior pipe. George gave a history of the pipe. It was explained to DMA holdings that if they wanted to assist us in looping or something it would be beneficial. DMA holdings is now looking for 8000-10000 gallons per day but they are changing the hydrant yard system, it would be nice to loop the area around. I have asked the Engineer to reach out to the Water Sewer Department to discuss and go over plans and the possibility of main breaks.

Bob: There was a previous break on Chase Ave right in that area that drained the system a few years ago, which shows the instability of that infrastructure. We still want our Engineers to review finalized plans submitted to the Planning Board for the infrastructure for DMA Holdings and to be sure that we can provide adequate and dependable fire protection and water to DMA Holdings. This item is to be carried over to April Agenda. Send a note to Town Planner requesting a peer review by our Engineers for the finalized plan for DMA holdings.

Also, will need to investigate sewer trunkline.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Bob seconded the motion, no discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

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

Posted agenda for March 15, 2023, meeting at 6:30pm Room 315

Minutes from 3/1/2023

Rate Increases Documents

FY 2024 Draft Budget

Budget and Revenue information

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant