



**Georgetown Water Department
Board of Water Commissioners Meeting**

Minutes Recorded

Meeting Date: June 6, 2024

Meeting Location: Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

1 Library Street Georgetown, MA

Attendance:

Board of Water Commissioners (BWC): Jeff McClure (Acting Chairman), Nick Lawler, Steve King

Georgetown Water Department (GWD) Staff: Marlene Ladderbush (Utility Director), Stacie Melchin (Office Manager)

Tigh and Bond Engineers: Tom Mahanna, Louis Soracco, Mary Danielson

Attendee: Craig Marchionda (9 Beverly Drive)

Minutes Keeper: Stacie Melchin

Public Input

Chair to address any/all attendees.

Preliminary Matters:

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair Jeff McClure 5:10pm

Water Department

A resident from 9 Beverly Drive, Craig Marchionda, was in attendance and addressed by the Acting Chair Jeff McClure in which Mr. Marchionda requested clarification regarding the GWD regulations and approval process relevant to adding another water service line to a new structure on his private property. The board and Marlene agreed to investigate the request and reserve a place on next month's agenda for Mr. Marchionda to further discuss the matter.

Agenda Item No. 1

WTP Upgrade Project

a. Discussion with Design Engineers

The board and Marlene announced that the Town vote went through and GWD has secured the funds to bring the WTP Upgrade Project to completion. Marlene and the board presented Tighe and Bond with a WTP design shift from additional greensand filtration with biological filtration along with an emphasis on remaining within the allotted approved budget. The following topics by Tighe and Bond describe the design revisions for biological filtration and budget consideration.

- Addition of an aeration tower
- Change in size and type of filters including a GAC filter needed to produce unchlorinated finished water
- Investigation of the method of supplying unchlorinated backwash water will continue. Segregation of a portion of the proposed FW clearwell and provide a separate pair of backwash pumps. Possible repurposing of the existing Aquastore tank.
- Additional WTP building will be constructed 11 feet away and in line with existing WTP front face still requiring sheeting the excavation and relocation of existing utilities in the side yard.
- Replacement of existing garage door with a smaller unit to manage backwash fumes exhaust system
- Roof type proposal amounts for Flat vs. Pitched. The flat roof example is estimated at \$525,000 and wood truss pitched roof example estimated at \$850,000.
- Installation of new standby power generators at Duffy's and Commissioner's Wells
- Repurposing KOH area in WTP for NaOCI
- Separation of backwash pumps from high lift pumps. Make note a small cost savings is possible to combine, but an additional control valve could be needed to backpressure the high lift pumps.

The board and Marlene inquired about the following design concerns regarding yard piping and the need to have separation of raw water. The group agreed that the existing piping would suffice and should be mechanically cleaned.

The BWC and Marlene asked Tighe and Bond's recommendation on making Duffy's only biological. T & B responded that they would run filter stress tests for analysis and report back with the results.

The board and Marlene asked T & B to consider repurposing the current lab space since the new building has an upgraded lab proposed and it is not necessary for two labs.

The board inquired about a need for redundant compressors. T & B stated that further piloting is needed for

determination of the need for chlorine and permanganate and that new compressors will most likely be necessary.

Marlene and the BWC noted the sticking valves problem and asked T & B what the cost and plan of action would be to remedy the issue. T & B stated they will investigate the possibility of replacing the air actuated valves with electric actuators.

Marlene and the board discussed the head issues with backwashing regarding back up of wash water to the filters. Jeff mentioned direct piping and moving the air gap. T & B offered a few options but will further evaluate the issue.

Tighe and Bond made the board and Marlene aware of the possibility of contracting an outside firm (GRLA) for the architectural portion of the project. The BWC and Marlene requested a timeline schedule of the project and to reconvene with T & B in September in which they agreed to both requests.

Utility Director Update

Agenda Item No. 2

Restructure of Board Positions

Acting Chair Jeff McClure confirmed Nick Lawler's successful election to the Board of Water Commissioners last month. The board agreed in following established precedent regarding the restructuring of the board positions.

Motion to appoint Jeff McClure Chairman and Nick Lawler Secretary moved by Steve King

Seconded by Nick Lawler

All in Favor

Vote 3-0

Agenda Item No. 3

Capital Project Updates

a. Marshall's Well

Marlene stated to the board that Marshall's Well was still underperforming and is working to find a possible resolution. No major rehabilitation will be done since the last rehabilitation was short-lived. Marlene has decided to pull the Commissioner's pump and have it steam-cleaned to increase pumping capacity for the summer season.

b. Media Update

The board and Marlene expressed concern to Tighe and Bond over the large amount of excess media left over from the filter rehabilitation project. Tighe and Bond stated that they will investigate who is responsible for ordering the overage and how GWD can be compensated regarding this issue.

Agenda Item No. 4

Financials FY24

Marlene reported to the BWC that the department continues to be ahead of the budget with no unexpected expenses. Marlene stated that preparation and review has begun to ensure all budgeted costs for FY24 are appropriately applied before the closing of the fiscal year.

Agenda Item No 5

Water Rate Hearing

Motion to open public hearing at 7pm regarding agenda item number five water rate hearing moved by Steve King

Seconded by Nick Lawler

All in Favor

Vote 3-0

The board and Marlene discussed appropriate strategies regarding the necessary water rate increases with careful consideration of the impact on our ratepayers. The BWC requested that Marlene prepare a cost analysis reflecting a 3, 4, and 5 percent rate increase and the cost impact regarding each billing tier for next month's meeting. Marlene also suggested a review and increase of the current water fees and will place as separate agenda items for next month's meeting for further discussion.

Motion to close public hearing at 7:11pm regarding agenda item number five water rate hearing moved by Steve King

Seconded by Nick Lawler

All in Favor

Vote 3-0

Agenda Item No. 6

WMA Permit Update

Marlene made the board aware that the Water Management Act Permit is still in the pending final approval stage but will continue to update the board concerning the permit's progress.

Agenda Item No. 7

ASR Completed

Marlene alerted the board that the ASR has been completed and submitted for the year.

Agenda Item No. 8

CCR Completed

Marlene informed the BWC that the 2023 Annual Water Quality Report (CCR) has been completed and distributed to all Town buildings and public offices to provide accessibility for all residents.

Agenda Item No. 9

Residual Disposal

A discussion ensued between Marlene and the board concerning the disposal of the lagoon residuals and the various options to explore in resolving the matter. Marlene stated that she would investigate the proposed options and update the board with progress in the path chosen for resolution.

Agenda Item No. 10

Gate Valve Project Update

Marlene alerted the board that her meeting with Cardillo was productive, and three gate valves had been targeted for repair. A tentative plan of action has been established for each gate valve and the project is ready to move forward into the scheduling stage. Marlene told the BWC that she has requested an official quote to ensure that the project stays within the boundaries of the GWD ARPA funds.

Other Business

Agenda Item No. 11

Approval of May 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

BWC requested approval of the May 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes be shelved until next month's meeting pending further review.

Agenda Item No. 12

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Next meeting date set for July 8, 2024 @ 7 pm

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:28pm moved by Nick Lawler

Seconded by Jeff McClure

All in Favor

Vote 3-0