

**WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS
JANUARY 11, 2022**

The Wellesley Board of Public Works held a duly posted open online remote meeting beginning at 4:00 PM.

Remote participants included Chair Jeffrey P. Wechsler and Commissioners Scott Bender and Ellen Korpi; Director David A. Cohen; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown; Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr., Water & Sewer Superintendent William J. Shaughnessy; Executive Assistant Debra Sumner; Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen; Senior Project Manager Emily Scerbo of Tighe & Bond; and Sustainable Wellesley Committee Member Trish Glass, and Wellesley resident Michael McManus.

Chair Wechsler called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following reference to the minutes proposed for approval and upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Bender, it was

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2021, as presented, (3-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2021, as presented, (3-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

CITIZEN SPEAK

The Chair provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works. No citizens participated and no one chose to speak.

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Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Director Cohen invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any matters to the attention of the Board of Public Works. Mr. Pedersen indicated that he did not have specific questions. He thanked Mr. Azano-Brown for preparing financials for review by the Advisory Committee. Mr. Pedersen also noted that the Advisory Committee is interested in the ongoing PFAS discussion, developments and what will be done to address the matter in the future. The Committee also requested to be kept informed of the status of the proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund. Lastly, a date has not yet been decided upon for the Board and Staff to return to the Advisory Committee to provide an updated budget presentation.

Director Cohen responded he, and others, would attend a future meeting at the Advisory Committee's convenience. He noted that due to two outstanding items, it would be helpful to defer the meeting date until pertinent information is obtained, as it could impact the final budget numbers. The two items include a new trash contract to be negotiated and the proposed Walnut Street Reconstruction project. Mr. Pedersen notified Mr. Cohen he would be in contact when he learns of a date.

PFAS Update. Director Cohen reported on the status of Contract #22C-470-1683 for Morses Pond WTP Interim PFAS Treatment System Procurement. He explained the contract documents have been prepared for signature and the plan to move forward with the Notice to Proceed. Mr. Cohen conveyed the contractor is anticipating delays on the labor and production sides associated with putting together vessels and containers.

The Director also discussed the option for the Town to connect to the MWRA as a single source of water in the future. He referred to the secondary connection proposed by the MWRA, which is estimated to cost \$25-30,000,000. He noted the conversation would continue with the MWRA related to this expensive proposition.

Also discussed briefly was a potential scope of service to conduct PFAS source investigation. Mr. Cohen conveyed proposals are being reviewed to determine if any could meet our needs.

There was an inquiry if other communities could be involved with the MWRA's potential project and the researching of PFAS sources as a means of cost sharing related expenses. The Director conveyed that as far as researching the sources, Wellesley College remains a consideration. However, Mr. Cohen confirmed that the Town of Natick has notified him there is no interest in combining to make it a joint effort. He added, however, the Town of Natick staff is willing to share information.

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Mr. Wechsler engaged Mr. McManus in a discussion regarding testing requirements and methods. Mr. McManus conveyed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is going to be increasing its requirements to be implemented later this year to include additional compounds. Mr. McManus suggested it would probably be the case that municipalities will need to comply with these requirements, as well as those of the MWRA. Mr. McManus also emphasized the importance of keeping things in perspective, as the limit the Town exceeds consists of parts per trillion, which is a "tiny" concentration.

It was acknowledged these timelines could potentially influence the long-term decision regarding the matter to be addressed and how the changes to be implemented by the EPA could impact the outcome of the decision.

Chair Wechsler noted appreciation is to be extended to Ms. Glass for her assistance in promoting the recent PFAS Forum for the public and among various committees. Mr. Cohen confirmed he would convey Chair Wechsler's sentiments to Ms. Glass.

Contract Award for Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant Interim PFAS Treatment System Construction – Contract #22C-470-1685. Director Cohen referred to the Recommendation to Award and following a brief discussion and responding to inquiries from the Board, upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

VOTED: That Contract #22C-470-1685 for Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant Interim PFAS Treatment System Construction be awarded to D&C Construction Co., Inc., in accordance with our specifications and their quoted price of \$324,000.00, (3-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

Stormwater Utility Discussion. Director Cohen notified the Board that Town Engineer Hickey and Ms. Scerbo would provide an update on the Stormwater Management Program. The purpose of which is to concentrate on highlights since the last presentation given at the November 9 BPW Meeting, as well as to seek feedback from the Board and give an estimate of how rates and fees might be structured. Mr. Hickey and Ms. Scerbo reviewed the content of the orientation meetings made to, and feedback received from, the Advisory Committee, Planning Board, and Select Board.

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The presentation to the Climate Action Committee will take place in mid-January. Links and additional information is available on the town website: <https://www.wellesleyma.gov/319/Stormwater-Management>. Examples discussed included Rate Structures and Fees for various size properties.

Mr. Hickey and Ms. Scerbo also referred to next steps and the anticipated timeline. Additional Stormwater Fee Workshops would be held with the Select Board, Advisory Committee, Key Stakeholders and the public. The proposed FY23 Stormwater Budget, Rates and Fee Policy for adoption are to be finalized.

The importance of emphasizing this proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund is not a new tax when conveying this as an expenditure that must be made and a plan would be created to structure it as fairly as possible. It was agreed it is fair to make it a user fee to ensure everyone is contributing. The largest contributors would pay proportionally higher rates due to the amount of stormwater impacts created by each user's property. It was also agreed the ability to explain how the categories were calculated needs to be clearly defined. It was the consensus of the Board that equity and fairness are critical aspects of the development of the rate structure.

Following this discussion, the Director notified the Board that Staff would continue to press forward with the steps to prepare this proposal for presentation of a Stormwater Enterprise Fund at Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Scerbo departed the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Mr. Cohen and Town Engineer Hickey responded to specific inquiries from the Board. The topic will be revisited at the February 8 Board Meeting.

SOF Activity Report. The Director referred to the most recent activity on the report during the month of December. He noted there was a duplicate reference and confirmed there was a purchase for one aerator, not two, as referenced in the report.

DPW Monthly Report. Director Cohen referenced topics and detailed additional highlights and provided examples to supplement information provided on Key Performance Goals, Key Challenges and Opportunities and Key Metrics reflected in this report from the following DPW divisions -- Administration; Engineering; Highway; Park & Tree; Recycling & Disposal Facility; Water & Sewer; Health & Safety; Winter Maintenance and, Additional Information.

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Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Financial Statements. The Director referred to the statements for the month of November 2021. The Director acknowledged costs are higher; revenues are lower but still looking reasonably well. He confirmed general cash would exceed the target amount.

Water & Sewer Division Monthly Performance Report. The Director referred to the report, which summarized the Water & Sewer Division activities during November 2021. The Director noted it reflects trends being measured in terms of water usage. Staff responded to specific comments and inquiries from the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Bender, it was

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Ellen Korpi
Secretary

DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022
4:00 PM

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meetings of December 14, 2021 and December 16, 2021. **BOARD APPROVAL AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

B. CITIZEN SPEAK.

ADMINISTRATION

C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATE. Director to inquire if Mr. Pedersen has information to bring to the attention of the Board and Staff. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

D. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

E. PFAS UPDATE. Director to refer to most recent activity related to this matter. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

F. STORMWATER UTILITY DISCUSSION. Director to provide update on Stormwater Utility Initiative. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

G. DPW MONTHLY REPORT. Director to refer to division highlights listed in report. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

H. STATEMENT OF FACT ACTIVITY REPORT. Director to reference the report reflecting contract awards between \$10,000 AND \$50,000, to date. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

I. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Director to refer to financial statements for the month of November 2021. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

J. WATER & SEWER DIVISION MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT. Director to refer to report for the month of November 2021 prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Shaughnessy. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

FYI

Ltr. to DEP NERO/Drinking Water Program – DBPR Monitoring for 4th Quarter 2021