

**WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS  
MARCH 8, 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; 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 February 8, 2022, 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.

**Advisory Committee Liaison Update.** Director Cohen invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any matters to the attention of the Board of Public Works. Mr. Pedersen conveyed special thanks to Director Cohen and Assistant Director Azano-Brown for providing him with updated budget information. He confirmed that all PFAS questions from the Advisory Committee have been answered for the time being. Mr. Pedersen also thanked Town Engineer Hickey for explaining in detail the Walnut Street Reconstruction Project to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Pedersen conveyed the Advisory Committee is now focused on the Water Budget and how it might be impacted by the PFAS discussions and updates.

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**PFAS Update.** Director Cohen notified the Board it is his recommendation at this time to delay a request for funding on a long-term solution to remedy the PFAS issue until the fall Special Town Meeting (STM). He explained this is primarily due to uncertainty pertaining to the regulatory environment. Since the interim solution is not yet up and running, there is no data to be reported, which is needed to recommend a long-term solution. Mr. Cohen also conveyed he wants to prepare MWRA potential solutions and conceptual plans for presentation at Special Town Meeting. Mr. Cohen confirmed he has reached out to area communities to explore if there might be interest in establishing a regional plan. This recommendation will be explained in greater detail as part of the Water & Sewer Budget presentation later in this meeting.

Director Cohen also referred to the recently received numbers from Rosemary Longfellow, which appear to be going down per an early report, but is awaiting collection of additional data. Mr. Cohen explained that at Rosemary Longfellow groundwater samples have been taken, using old monitoring wells and compiling those results for review. In months to come he will have a better understanding of the data. The Director conveyed the DEP has issued approval for a permit for the Town to proceed with the interim solution, which remains several weeks away, as the supply chain might encounter some delays in transport of materials. It is anticipated that the interim system will be working in April or May.

Director Cohen extended thanks to Mr. McManus for his input and support related to this prudent decision to move forward with the interim testing data. Mr. McManus conveyed he would be willing to help review data and provide insights in the future, as appropriate. It was the consensus of the Board that they, too, are appreciative of Mr. McManus' efforts with regard to this matter.

**Stormwater Utility Discussion.** Mr. Cohen conveyed to the Board that it is his understanding there are misperceptions within the community about this proposed enterprise fund being a new tax, which it is not. He emphasized the importance of the need to be clear and accurate when conveying information to the public via all means, including planned meetings with stake holders. The Director and Town Engineer Hickey plan to continue stake holder engagement with large property owners while they continue to develop a solid program for presentation at the fall Special Town Meeting.

**Wellesley Avenue at Great Plain Avenue Intersection Improvement Project – Change Order No. 2.** Director Cohen referred to this change order, which requires Board approval prior to closure of the contract. Mr. Hickey referred to specifics related to the project reconciliation which totaled approximately \$145,000. The Town Engineer conveyed he considered the reconciliation to be reasonable and expressed confidence

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in the amount. Mr. Hickey confirmed that staff monitored changes closely for accuracy as the project was ongoing. In conclusion, he reported that the project was completed under budget at approximately \$2,300,000 vs. the \$2,800,000 amount budgeted.

Following a discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** As project funding is available, it is the recommendation of the Department that Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$145,685.28 for Contract #21C-420-1652 be approved, all in accordance with the Contract Bid Documents and the attached Change Order No. 2 document, (3-0).

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

**Walnut Street Reconstruction Discussion.** The Director conveyed it is anticipated that the contract documents will be in hand during Annual Town Meeting. He confirmed this topic was on the agenda in case the Board has any items for discussion or questions regarding this future project. Mr. Hickey reported he participated in a meeting with Haynes Management Inc. to discuss an area driveway that could be impacted during the construction. He also conveyed having received a complimentary letter from the Trails Committee expressing appreciation for having had the opportunity to provide feedback and emphasizing their strong preference and support for the proposed multi-use path.

**Revised FY 2023 Tax Impact Capital Budget – Version 5.** Director Cohen conveyed that he was notified by the Finance Department that since this budget was reduced by \$600K, as requested, in the final analysis and review of the balanced budget, it was confirmed that \$85K could be restored to the DPW budget. This amount will fund the cost of the Automated Brine Processor equipment. It was the consensus of the Board members, they were pleased by that decision. Mr. Pedersen confirmed he would forward the revised copies to Advisory.

Following a discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To approve the FY 2023 DPW Tax Impact Capital Budget, Version 5, with a cash capital total of \$3,101,000 and a Bonding and Chapter 90 total of \$3,240,000 for a total capital funding request of \$6,341,000, (3-0).

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

**Revised FY 2023 Water and Sewer Budget – Version 3.0.** The Director referred to the revised FY23 Water and Sewer Operating and Capital budget summaries. The combined Water & Sewer operating and non-operating budgets for FY23 total \$20,778,815, an 8.1% increase over FY22.

The Five Year Capital Plan for Water now shows a deferral of the \$5,300,000 to address PFAS treatment upgrades until FY24. Director Cohen confirmed there would be only a modest increase in the sewer rates.

The Director explained that based upon this budget plan, a 50% water rate increase is projected, as well as a 4% sewer rate increase for FY23.

Following a discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To approve the ATM Draft Motions included in Version 3.0 of the FY 2023 Water and Sewer Budgets with a total funding authorization request of \$11,586,265 for Water and \$10,236,667 for Sewer, (3-0).

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

**Winter Maintenance Supplemental Authorization Request.** The Director confirmed that this authorization had been approved earlier this week. Mr. Cohen explained, provided we do not encounter any significant snow storms, it is his expectation that a significant portion of the \$300K authorization could be returned at the end of the year.

**Christmas Tree Disposal at the RDF.** The Director referred to a resident request for future consideration for elimination of fees charged to customers for providing this disposal service, along with letters of support from residents who used this service. Mr. Cohen conveyed Staff is reviewing the request and the Rules and Regulations to determine if there is a change we can make to those practices. A recommendation will be provided for the Board's review prior to next season. Chair Wechsler expressed his appreciation that staff is contemplating if this might be possible, while taking the community's desires into account.

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**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; Additional Information and Completed Goals.

**Statement of Fact Activity Report.** The Director reported there had been no changes since the last Report.

### **WATER & SEWER DIVISION**

**Contract # 22C-470-1689 – Water Main Replacement and Cement Lining.** Following the Director's review of the bid recommendation prepared by Systems Engineer Matthew Hernon and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** That the award for Contract #22C-470-1689, "Water Main Replacement and Cement Lining" be made to N. Granese & Sons, Inc., of 59 Jefferson Avenue, Salem, MA 01970, all in accordance with our specifications and their bid in the amount of \$1,717,861.20, (3-0).

**Irrigation Well Requests – 44 Ridge Hill Farm Road and 97 Audubon Road.** The Director referred to the recommendation for approval of requests for two wells by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy. In response to Chair Wechsler's inquiry, Mr. Shaughnessy responded he has no concerns about these wells having an impact on the Town's water supply.

Following a brief discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender, and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To approve the request from E.W. Tarca Construction, Inc., on behalf of the property owners "Jenna Harrington, Trustee, 44RHF Nominee Trust", for Thomas Mahan of Hydrosystems, Inc., License #718, the well driller, to drill an irrigation well on the property at 44 Ridge Hill Farm Road, (3-0).

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

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The Director referred to the recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy. Following a brief discussion and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender, and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To approve the request from Ms. Michienzi of Clear Water Pump and Well Service, LLC, on behalf of the property owner, William Roberts, for Ryan Wragg, License #919, of Gap Mountain Drilling, to drill an irrigation well on the property at 97 Audubon Road, (3-0).

Mr. Bender  
Ms. Korpi  
Mr. Wechsler

**Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Financial Statements.** The Director referred to the statements for the month of January 2022 and responded to comments from the Board. Following a review of the statements, it was agreed that Staff would review the target cash number on the balance sheet. The Director will have a revised copy sent to the Board once the information has been reconciled.

**Water & Sewer Division Monthly Performance Report.** The Director referred to the report prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy, which summarized the Water & Sewer Division activities during January 2022.

Mr. Cohen referred back to the earlier PFAS conversation and explained the reference to the water supply shows a range of results recorded at Rosemary and the range of PFAS samples in the groundwater. Future reporting will be useful for comparison purposes.

**Coming Events.** The Director reconfirmed Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will begin on Monday evening, March 28. BPW Meetings will be held prior to ATM sessions on an as needed basis. The next regularly scheduled BPW meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, at 4:00 PM. There will be a need for a Public Hearing related to the increase in Water Rates, which can be held at the beginning of the April 12 meeting, or on a separate date to be determined.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn (3-0).

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

*Ellen L. Korpi*

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Ellen Korpi  
Secretary

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
**WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING**  
**MARCH 8, 2022**  
**4:00 PM**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2022. **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. WELLESLEY AVENUE AT GREAT PLAIN AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER NO. 2.** Director to refer to this Change Order. **BOARD APPROVAL & SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUESTED.**

**H. WALNUT STREET RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION.** Director to provide update on most recent activity and planning. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**I. FY 2023 TAX IMPACT CAPITAL BUDGET.** Director to refer to Version 5 of this budget. **BOARD APPROVAL REQUIRED.**

**J. FY 2023 WATER AND SEWER BUDGET.** Director to refer to revised version of this budget. **BOARD APPROVAL REQUIRED.**

**K. WINTER MAINTENANCE SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.** Director to refer to request to be submitted to Executive Director Jop for Approval. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

**L. CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL AT THE RDF.** Director to refer to resident request for future consideration for elimination of fees charged to certain customers cons for providing disposal service. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**



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

**N. 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 DIVISON**

**O. STATEMENT OF FACT - CONTRACT AWARD – WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT & CEMENT LINING.** Director to refer to Bid Recommendation prepared by Systems Engineer Matt Hernon. **BOARD VOTE AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUESTED.**

**P. IRRIGATION WELL REQUEST – 44 RIDGE HILL FARM ROAD.** Director to refer to recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy. **BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

**Q. IRRIGATION WELL REQUEST – 97 AUDUBON ROAD.** Director to refer to recommendation for approval prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy. **BOARD APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

**R. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.** Director to refer to financial statements for the month of January 2022. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**S. WATER & SEWER DIVISION MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT.** Director to refer to report for the month of January 2022 prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Shaughnessy. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**