

Wellfleet Board of Water Commissioners

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday March 30, 2021; 6PM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Hood, Chair; Catharie Nass, Curt Felix, Neil Gadwa

Members Absent: Tom Flynn

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary, Gail Ferguson

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

Oakridge Curb Stop

Chair Hood stated that the Oakridge curb stop would cost \$5000.00 to install. Chair Hood would also like to get some bid from Cory Brudage. The installation on Witts Lane to service Masonic Lane was \$5000 just for the curb stop from Robert B. Orr. If Cory Brudage, also bid, we may be able to do better on the price. The people who bought the property on Squires Pond Lane are having Cory install a curb stop on Main Street and bring a 2inch water main to service the property. Chair Hood has also reached out to Richard Robishoe and has not heard back. Oakridge, we should assume that it will cost us approximately \$5000. Chair Hood has not yet spoken to the Methodist Church on this matter.

SCADA System

Chair Hood stated that he had received one invoice from Butch Neylon for \$40,000. He still has work to do at the Coles Neck site. The expectation is another 20% -25% or so, we would have to be spent. Chair Hood has held off submitting the invoice to the Housing Choice Program for that. We should have the rest of the invoice in the next couple of weeks and will then be able to submit the entire amount. That should put the amount to \$65K - \$68K on the Housing Choice Grant. The balance would be available for Engineering Services for the water main.

Water Main Project

On the water main installation, we got two invoices from Environment Partners. They have invoiced \$66K for January and February. Another \$40k- \$50 K for March could be billed to Mass Works or that amount is not covered by Housing Choice Program. We will submit a report for Mass Works Program for this quarter, however, Chair Hood was unable to submit it. As soon as new assistant town administrator is in place Nick Bullians, at Mass Works, will walk the new hire through the process of how to submit the quarterly reporting and invoices. According to Paul Millet we are approximately, at the end of Feb, 45% of the survey and planning work on the engineering is completed and another 20 % on the design. On target to have the engineering services to be completed by the end of April so we can go to bid in May. The expectation is to have the bids in by July. The overall plans is that construction would start September or early October.

New Assistant Town Administrator

The new Assistant Town administrator is Rebecca Slick. She started April 1st. A Zoom meeting will take place for the introductions. Chair Hood will put a package of information to be sent to Rebecca on the Housing Choice Program and Water Works Program.

BUDGET

Chair Hood stated that they still do not have a draft of the 2022 budget. Committee Secretary Eldridge stated that on April 5th there would be an all budget meeting. On March 31st all the budgets would be generated. On April 13th and the 27th, budget meetings would take place. There may be a separate meeting for wastewater. Chair Hood stated installation of the new water meters, meter replacement may go in as a warrant article in June Town meeting. Make it a capital item and request full amount. There may be a way to request additional funding. Felix stated that there is \$3.6M authorized and \$2.4M grant, but the language in the article was not sufficient to cover the new meters. We will only be using the \$1.2M of the authorized of the \$3.6M borrowed. We will have to reauthorize through a different article to the money to cover the meters. Chair Hood wants to look at the Mass Works Grant there may be a way to request additional funding. They are looking at other options for additional funding. Chair Hood will review the alternative options with Maria.

Chair Hood stated that the operating budget, he wanted to push for \$2500 for the contingency fund.

He is doubtful that they would approve that. Changes were made to all budgets. The shortfall was \$650K.

Wellfleet Cinema

Chair Hood stated that the owners of the Cinema reached out to the town of Eastham to connect to their water system. Eastham is considering it, from the standpoint of they need a large customer at the end of the system, hoping they could connect the Cinema and that they would not have to dump their water. This would solve their issues. They reached out to Chair Hood. The Town of Eastham would have to come out with a proposal for the Theatre. Jackie Rubie did want to see the position of the Water Commission. Once there is an agreement in place then to come up with an agreement that if we put our water system that far, we would be able to take that property back into our system. This is in the early discussion stage at this point. Felix stated that there may be some issues that are unknown at this time. Town of Eastham needs to make a financial contribution to town of Wellfleet 2 -2.5 % to clean up Wellfleet Harbor. There may be a way do some trading with Eastham without costing the town a lot.

Felix may reach out to the owners of the Cinema. Gadwa stated that there are three well field on the property. There may be a nitrate issue on one of the fields. Chair Hood asked to confirm that Felix, reach out to the property owner.

White Water

Chair Hood asked if the Whitewater contract expired. He was not sure if they can do another extension, or if it goes out for bid. A contract extension would be a great deal easier than going out to bid.

Water Clerk

April 1st, Karen Plantier will be starting as the new Water Clerk.

Wastewater

Felix stated that there is agreement on the strategy and the numbers on the wastewater plant. At the next meeting we will have a presentation. The challenge is coming up with a financial plan for over the next 25 years. They discussed various options for reducing their nitrogen numbers.

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Felix moved, Gadwa seconded; and it was voted to adjourn. 5-0

Meeting adjourned 7:09 pm

Public Records:

Meeting minutes from March 30, 2021