

Attendees

Water and Sewerage Board Members

Clair Meehan
Christian Carpenter
Bill Harvey
Dave Pucci - Associate Member
Eric Kelly - Environmental Partners

Town

Maurice Goulet - Town
Gabrielle Casey - Town
Frank Gervasio – Town

Water & Sewerage Board Meeting

Agenda

1. Approval of outstanding meeting minutes: 28 August 2023
2. Review of open actions
3. Report of DPW Director
 - a. Status of wastewater treatment plant supervisor
 - b. Operation of filtration plant
 - c. PFAS sampling plan and results
 - d. Status on MXU installation, date of parts order, outstanding parts
 - e. New connection fees of peer towns
4. Ribbon cutting of filtration plant
5. Educational installations and programs at filtration plant
6. Year to date capex and expense review
7. Billing appeals
8. Liaison updates
9. Other new business

New Action Items during this Meeting

#	Item	Responsible	Due
1.	Schedule a call with Norfolk County to discuss ARPA funding availability for Harding Street infiltration and inflow infrastructure improvement project	F. Gervasio	October 2023
2	Follow up contracting with a recruiting firm for the wastewater treatment plant supervisor position	F. Gervasio	October 2023

Holdover Action Items

#	Item	Responsible	Due
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1.	Provide additional analysis on water and sewer connection fees of neighboring towns	D. Pucci	October 2023
2.	Follow up on betterment and special assessment process	F. Gervasio	October 2023
3.	Follow up on status of meeting minutes to be posted to Town website	F. Gervasio	October 2023
4.	Confirm date for B. Harvey to attend Select Board meeting	B. Harvey/F. Gervasio	October 2023
5.	Develop outline of educational installations and programs at filtration plant and online	C. Meehan/D. Pucci	October 2023
6.	Begin sending water samples for PFAS testing to two different accredited labs	M. Goulet	October 2023

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

1. Approval of outstanding meeting minutes: 28 August 2023

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the 28 August 2023 meeting pending edits offered by B. Harvey, C. Meehan, and D. Pucci.

2. Review of open actions

F. Gervasio confirmed that he had posted the materials from the public hearing on water and sewer rates to the town website. He also continues to follow up on posting prior meeting minutes onto the town website. In addition, F. Gervasio, M. Goulet, and Woodard & Curran have been told by the County that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding could be used as a secondary funding source to a potential loan awarded through the State Clean Water Revolving Fund for the Harding Street sewer main project. This would mean that the loan funding would need to be utilized first, and once exhausted, the ARPA funds could be used. F. Gervasio mentioned that a complicating factor noted by the County was that the ARPA funds would be complemented with an award from the state to fund a project.

Following a discussion about the Board’s preference to have a more firm and clear commitment from the County on the eligibility of ARPA funding for this purpose, it was decided that F. Gervasio would schedule a call with members of the County’s ARPA team and the town to discuss.

B. Harvey noted that the Environmental Partners Elm Street sewerage line extension report had been sent to Conservation Commission and Board of Health.

F. Gervasio noted that a meeting had been scheduled with Town Counsel to discuss the betterment and special assessment process, but it had been rescheduled for a later date.

3. Report of DPW Director

- a. Status of wastewater treatment plant supervisor: The Town’s recruitment for hiring this position has been unsuccessful to date. F. Gervasio and M. Goulet agreed to follow up on contracting with a recruiting firm to identify and hire a

- candidate for this position.
- b. Operation of filtration plant: M. Goulet stated that the new plant is operating better than expected, with pumping capacity reaching 800 gallons per minute on Well 3 and 500 gallons per minute on Well 4. E. Kelley from Environmental Partners confirmed when the wells are operating together, the plant's capacity reaches 1,100 gallons per minute. He also confirmed that the remaining punch list items for the construction of the plant are on track to be completed by the end of October. E. Kelley also confirmed that the Town's dispute about the location of installed pipe at the site is under review by Environmental Partners and Woodard and Curran.
 - c. PFAS sampling plan and results: B. Harvey confirmed with M. Goulet that the results of the town's first and second quarter PFAS testing were below Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection threshold for any remediation efforts. Testing for the third quarter months to date has been close to the threshold, and therefore B. Harvey has directed M. Goulet to send the water samples to two accredited labs as opposed to just one in order to observe any variation amongst the labs.
 - d. Status on MXU installation, date of parts order, outstanding parts: M. Goulet confirmed about 1,700 MXUs had been installed to date, and the town's vendor has confirmed a shipment of roughly 900 MXUs should arrive within the next few weeks. Between 800 and 900 MXUs will still be needed. M. Goulet also confirmed with D. Pucci that most customers would not know the difference so far if their meter is located outside. If meters are located inside, an appointment is needed for installation. Most of the locations where MXUs have not been installed have meters inside.
 - e. New connection fees of peer towns: M. Goulet distributed and reviewed a sheet summarizing a list of peer town connection fees compiled by himself and D. Pucci. B. Harvey noted that Medfield's connection fees of \$2,000 for water and sewer connections were about 30% lower than most peer towns, and that Medfield's should be raised. C. Carpenter agreed. B. Harvey recommended an amount of \$2,900 for both water and sewer connection fees, which he proposed would be voted on at the next meeting. D. Pucci would continue to gather data on peer communities for the Board to consider.

4. Ribbon cutting of filtration plant

B. Harvey and F. Gervasio agreed this would be discussed when B. Harvey attends the Select Board meeting, the scheduling of which would be confirmed after the meeting. B. Harvey also plans to discuss emergency water service agreements with neighboring communities with the Select Board at that meeting.

5. Educational installations and programs at filtration plant

B. Harvey described the types of brochures and website materials that would explain where the

town's water sources are and what constraints are in place in utilizing them. Additional information on how the filtration plant works would also be provided. B. Harvey noted it would be a good idea to partner with Medfield High School and perhaps Medfield TV on this effort. C. Meehan and D. Pucci are to follow up on an outline of materials to be developed.

6. Year to date capex and expense review

This agenda item was held in the interest of time.

7. Billing Appeals

The Board welcomed Carla Romney and Stuart Beard of 301 North Street to hear their billing appeal. The bill in question was for the billing period beginning in October 2022. The residents stated that they believed their meter must have malfunctioned given that they were billed for 120,000 gallons with no behavior changes, septic tank issues, or other problems noticed. Their typical winter billing period usage amounts to roughly 1/6th of the amount they were billed for.

After lengthy deliberation and discussion, C. Carpenter motioned to revise the bill to reflect usage of 2,100 gallons. B. Harvey and C. Carpenter voted aye. C. Meehan had left the meeting.

The Board then welcomed David Casey of 2 Hartford Street to hear a billing appeal. D. Casey explained that after purchasing the home, he and his wife did not move into the house as it underwent renovations. They received a bill in October 2021 for \$2,286.47, much higher than expected given that no one was living at the home. The meter was subsequently replaced. During summer 2022, a leak in the water line running between the resident owned side of the meter and the home was detected and fixed. In October 2022, D. Casey received a bill reflecting consumption of 616,000 gallons. The October 2022 bill is being appealed to the Board for abatement.

After an initial discussion that clarified the timeline events and actions as well as the responsibilities of the property owner given the location of the water meter, C. Carpenter requested additional time for the Board to gather information related to the appeal.

The Board adjourned at 10:20 am.