

June 28, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Tuesday June 28, 2022, at 4:30 PM in the Michael G. MacPherson Meeting Room at the water department office located at 22 Elm St, Kingston Ma.

Present were Vice Chairman Robert Erlandsen, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, Mike Ohl of CEI, Superintendent Matt Darsch, Foreman Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith. Commissioner Robert R. Kostka was unable to attend.

Technical difficulties with ZOOM delayed the start of the meeting.

Chairman Richard W. Loring Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. and stated the bill schedules have been signed. Minutes of June 14, 2022, will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mike Ohl and Mike Carmasine, CEI Inc. RE: Engineering Updates

Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Plant Project

Mr. Ohl stated the contractor finished the 3-day demonstration. Mass DEP had its final inspection on Friday. All the formal paperwork has been completed and the coliform tests came back absent of any coliform. He stated no issues were raised by Mass DEP.

Mr. Ohl said the solar panels have been installed. The contractors remain working on their “to do” list. A formal draft punch list is due within thirty days and then a substantial completion certificate can be issued to the contractor. Mr. Ohl presented pictures to the Board of the treatment plant from earlier in the month and said it looks even better now. He added, there have been no further washout from recent rain events.

There remain two issues that need to be corrected. The first one is regarding the roof tread and where it meets the drip line. There is a gap at the gable ends. Originally thought to be an issue with the wood blocking but that does not appear to be the case. The two-by-eight blocking is covered by metal trim which is warped. Mr. Ohl stated they looked on Friday and this issue will go back to the roofer to rectify.

The second remaining issue is what to do with the filter trench drain. The trench drain in front of the filters is draining into the tight tank, which is not going to work. Mr. Ohl stated one option was to ask the contractor to price out connecting the filter trench to the sample drain in the lab going to the dry well. He stated, as Mr. Veracka suggested, this pipe passing through the lab/control room will help when performing analyzer maintenance as well.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked about the pricing. Mr. Ohl said the work would consist of a 1-foot slab cut into the existing concrete and he said it could be considerable. Mr. Ohl stated hopefully in two weeks we should have some pricing. Chairman Loring recognized Foreman Chris Veracka and thanked him for his suggestion.

Superintendent Darsch stated the new filter at Trackle Pond went into service last week.

Kristen Berger, Resilient CE RE: Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Plant

Ms. Berger said the engineers just issued a draft punch list. She asked to pull everything into one list. She stated the SRF is all caught up on requests for payment. Most recently, the contractors work with change orders to date is at 92% completion. The subs are complete, and the retainage should be reduced to just what remains on the punch list. She said, we can talk more about this next week. She said overall the work has been reimbursed through the SRF to approximately 90% and is looking good.

Regarding the trench drain, Ms. Berger stated this should have been done correctly from the start in the design. This is now work that is being re-done. Connecting the trench drain to the tight tank should never have happened.

Ms. Berger asked Mr. Ohl about the Owner's Manual. Mr. Ohl responded it should be done by the end of the week. She asked they also include the daily reports.

Superintendent Darsch asked, with the end of the fiscal year approaching and the punch list left to be done, when will the SRF loan will close. He asked about a timeline. Ms. Berger said it carries on a bit with the engineers.

Ms. Berger asked Mr. Ohl about the request to run as a remote facility. Mr. Ohl stated that they had spoken to Mass DEP and a request will be going in next week.

Chairman Loring asked about the timing of an opening ceremony event for the public. Superintendent Darsch said he was still working on a pricing a memorial plaque for the building. Ms. Berger stated she would like to see the dumpster removed and have time to do some handouts etc. Mr. Ohl mentioned the insurance on the building and when the Town will pick up the coverage. Mr. Ohl responded, the insurance responsibility shifts once the substantial completion certificate has been issued. Until then, the insurance falls under the contractor.

Chairman Loring stated the next order of business is to offer the position of Superintendent to Chris Veracka. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion make a conditional offer of promotion to the position of Superintendent to Chris Veracka effective July 30, 2022. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0). Ms. Smith wanted to note that Commissioner Kostka told her to formally document his support of Chris for the position. He is unable to attend due to a previously planned vacation but felt it was important to have his support noted for the record. Chairman Loring added, he was pleased when he met with Wage & Personnel regarding their support of the funding for the position and the enthusiastic support of the Town Administrator as well.

Mr. Veracka thanked the Board for their support. He presented to the Board that the contractor for the sewer plant expansion along with the Sewer Superintendent Bob Monaghan and had asked for over 400k gallons of water to fill their new tank to evaluate for leaks. Once completed they would drain the tank. He feels it was a substantial amount of water to ask for during peak season considering the current water restriction. He feels this would add to the frustration and aggravation of residents. His suggestion was that the sewer department use their treated effluent versus using potable water. Chairman Loring agreed. Mr. Veracka stated this was never their intent to fill this tank this time of year; however, they are running behind on the project. Discussion continued regarding the disruption to the system that could cause to the system. Consensus was this did not make sense in the height of summer and high-water usage. Chairman Loring suggested Superintendent Darsch reach out to the Sewer Superintendent to discuss the Board's concerns and apprehension.

Regarding unfinished business, 1 Tremont/163 Summer St with the additional two new apartment buildings being proposed and the extent of changes to the impervious surface. Mr. Ohl said the current impervious comes to 54.5% between the building and the parking lot which predates the protection bylaws. The proposed construction will increase the calculation to 69.5% however, they can exclude the roof area if he discharges roof drainage into a subsurface filtration system from the new buildings and the existing buildings, this will reduce the total percentage to 52% which would be allowable as "grandfathered". This is making the current situation better. Mr. Ohl stated he did not see a problem with the new documentation that has been submitted. He believes it would be suitable with typical conditions, regarding storing hazardous chemicals, snow etc. to issue a water quality certificate.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated this project meets the affordable housing criteria and appears that it would be no more of a strain on the water system. Mr. Ohl stated inspections are necessary and inspection ports should be provided as part of the maintenance plan. Superintendent Darsch stated we also commented on the location of water services to the new buildings. Chairman Loring asked if fire service is required for two new buildings. Mr. Veracka stated the existing buildings would have to be retrofitted with sprinkler systems. He stated he has had discussions with both the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, and they stated they would prefer a hydrant centrally located within the complex.

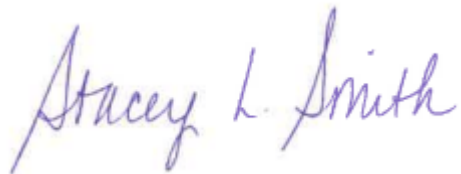
Chairman Loring asked if a motion to approve a Water Quality Certificate is appropriate based on fire lane, hydrant and updated plans being submitted. Mr. Ohl suggested the Board wait until a maintenance plan has been submitted.

Chairman Loring referenced the RDA received regarding the cranberry bog project. He recommended we have Mr. Ohl review before any comments by the Board. Discussion ensued regarding Rt 44 and the groundwater data. Chairman Loring stated his concern about clear cutting and excavating land to build cranberry bogs to benefit developmentally challenged students as a "legacy" project versus the environmental impacts to the overlay district. Mr. Loring stated he would like to wait to hear from Mr. Ohl on this proposal and its potential effects to the overlay district.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith, Clerk