

WAYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Town Building
41 Cochituate Road
Wayland, MA 01778
April 25, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Present: C. Lewis (Chair), S. Greenbaum, G. Uveges, M. Wegerbauer. Also present: Carol Martin (Select Board Liaison to the BoPW), Matt Abrahams (Abrahams Group), Kelsi Power-Spirlet (Zoom moderator). Absent: E. Chiang.

DPW Staff in Attendance: Tom Holder (Director), Joe Doucette (Superintendent), Don Millette (Water Superintendent).

Meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom. Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

Announcements

Tom Holder announced that James Gazzaniga, a 20-year employee of the DPW, had passed away after a brief illness. Mr. Holder said services were planned in the coming days, and that he would send out information about these to Members of the BoPW. All present observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Gazzaniga.

Lewis announced that the South 20 Landfill Visioning Committee, which had previously dissolved, had been reestablished by the Select Board, and he had been asked to serve on this Committee. He asked if anyone present had objections to his doing so; there were none.

Public Comment

None.

MWRA Water Cost Study and Water Enterprise Fund Cost Study

Mr. Holder introduced Matt Abrahams, of the Abrahams Group, who was in attendance to present on this topic. The Abrahams Group had conducted studies on both the Water Enterprise Fund and the MWRA Water Costs. Mr. Abrahams presented on the latter study first.

Mr. Abrahams said that they had produced a workbook for water rate-setting. This workbook looked at potential costs and rates through FY 2030; this was because the MWRA assessed their own rates for communities in the year following usage. Mr. Abrahams said that they had considered a full MWRA supply scenario, one in which Wayland used 50% MWRA water and 50% local sources, and one in which Wayland used only local sources. He noted that their group

had communicated with both Kleinfelder and the MWRA regarding the capital and operational plans they had compiled.

Mr. Abrahams reviewed the full MWRA conversion option. They had included three different funding sources for this scenario: Retained Earnings (a funding source for all three options), General Obligation Borrowing (GOB), and State Revolving Fund (SRF) Borrowing. (Mr. Holder clarified that this last funding source was government funding available through the Clean Water Act.)

There was discussion of what information was immediately relevant for Town Meeting purposes and what information the public might expect. Carol Martin reminded all present that the Town Meeting article up for consideration had no associated costs, and that any future costs would have to be separately approved in the future; she questioned, therefore, whether it was useful to provide cost estimates at this stage. Multiple Members emphasized that current costs were not directly comparable to either the hybrid option or full MWRA conversion, as Wayland's current sources would not be compliant in the future.

After discussion, Members agreed that, in response to any questions about costs associated with the various options, the BoPW would estimate yearly costs for the hybrid system at \$5,000,000, the full MWRA system at \$6,000,000, and exclusive use of local sources at \$7,000,000. Lewis said that he would draft a brief statement to that effect and submit it to Mr. Holder for approval. Members agreed that providing a greater level of detail would be premature at this time.

Irrigation Permit –51 Claypit Hill Road

Josh Leffell, owner at 51 Claypit Hill Road, was present for the application. He said that they had done renovations on the property, involving a lot of site work, and during this they had installed an irrigation system without a permit, being unaware of the requirement. He said that the installer was surprised to find out that there was a permit requirement. Mr. Leffell noted that they had submitted multiple building permits during their renovations and emphasized that the lack of a permit for their irrigation system was in no way an attempt to evade requirements.

Don Millette said that he had been working with Mr. Leffell for several months, and that the plans submitted were in full compliance. (The original plans had cut across the leaching field in a way that was non-compliant, but that this would be changed if the system was approved.)

Wegerbauer noted that the irrigation system currently in place may not be eligible for use during summertime water bans. Mr. Leffell said that he understood this, though he had not originally been aware of it. He said that sustainability was a priority for him.

Wegerbauer made a motion to approve the irrigation system, according to the amended plans in the application dated 4/3/2023, subject to review of the as-built by the Water Department. Greenbaum seconded, and a vote was taken.

Lewis aye, Greenbaum aye, Uveges aye, Wegerbauer aye. Motion passed (4-0-0).

Included in the packet for discussion: application for irrigation system at 51 Claypit Hill Road.

Town Meeting Article 12 MWRA Admission Application – Approval to Proceed

Lewis had prepared remarks on Article 12 that he planned to make at Town Meeting. Members reviewed these. Greenbaum objected to the use of the word “wells” when discussing water sources; Lewis said he could change this to “sources.” There was discussion of the use of the phrase “preliminary design,” as opposed to “proof of concept.”

There was discussion of which Members might speak at the “Pro” microphone during discussion of the Article. Carol Martin said that she planned to; Wegerbauer did as well. There was discussion of the level of detail it was reasonable or useful to provide at this stage.

Members agreed to meet separately immediately prior to Town Meeting; Mr. Holder said he would schedule this for 30 minutes before Town Meeting and post an agenda for it.

Included in the packet for discussion: draft remarks on Article 12, as prepared by Clifford Lewis.

2023 Water Ban

Don Millette spoke about the water ban. He was requesting authority to institute the ban for 2023. Members reviewed the two available methods for regulating the ban: the stream-flow method, and the calendar method. Mr. Millette emphasized that the permitting only allowed for one option or the other, not a combination of the two. Mr. Holder also noted that the stream-flow method was overly taxing on Staff time. He reminded all present that, in 2022, they had issued an Emergency Conservation Ban.

Wegerbauer suggested using the stream-flow method, but making the requirement for meeting the water level more stringent (e.g. 30 consecutive days, rather than 7 consecutive days), in order to avoid making Staff go back and forth. Mr. Holder reviewed the motion the BoPW approved the previous year, which involved implementing stream-flow triggers, upon which point the ban would not be lifted for at least 6 weeks.

Mr. Millette noted that DPW had to notify MassDEP every time they instituted a ban. He said that, as long as such bans were at least as restrictive as their permitting required, they did not need prior approval from MassDEP.

Wegerbauer moved to implement the same measures as in the previous year (in which a ban would be triggered by stream-flow, after which it would not be lifted for at least 6 weeks, at the discretion of DPW and the BoPW). Uveges seconded, and a vote was taken.

Greenbaum nay, Lewis aye, Uveges aye, Wegerbauer aye. Motion passed (3-1-0).

Members noted that public information about water bans would be available on the Town website, as well as the Wayland Voters’ Network and other community forums.

Cochituate Ball Field Team Areas

Joe Doucette said that a charitable foundation was established in honor of a young girl who passed away. The foundation had met with the Select Board, who voted in favor of receiving the funds they were offering. The proposal for the use of these funds was new little league dugouts at Cochituate Ball Field. Mr. Doucette said that the Town would own these outright once they were complete, and he did not anticipate any significant increase in maintenance efforts. The dugouts would be an as-in-kind replacement, and would not require assistance from DPW Staff to construct.

Wegerbauer moved to issue a statement of support for the little league dugout construction project at Cochituate Ball Field. Greenbaum seconded, and a vote was taken.

Greenbaum aye, Lewis aye, Uveges aye, Wegerbauer aye. Motion passed (4-0-0).

Included in the packet for discussion: plans for new dugouts at Cochituate Ball Field.

Major Project Updates

Tom Holder gave updates. He said that the PFAS treatment system was functioning as normal, with 2 out of the 3 well fields in operation. He said that Baldwin Pond was operating at full capacity, as they had received the new filters for it the previous week.

Mr. Holder said that the equipment contract for the Emergency MWRA Connection had been awarded. They were currently in the process of permitting with MassDEP for this project. He said that they expected construction on-site by September.

Mr. Holder updated on the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI), saying that there had been supply chain issues delaying the project. They had met with the vendor and emphasized the need to get all the electronic end-points in place as soon as possible.

Mr. Holder also noted that DPW were still seeking a replacement candidate for the Town Engineer, who had recently resigned.

Transfer Station Finances

Mr. Holder provided an overview of the Transfer Station finances. He compared the budget and year-to-date finances; he said that they were right on target for meeting their budget. He noted an anticipated increase in revenue for June, which was when they would begin selling stickers.

Members also reviewed a spreadsheet of the same information, arranged on an annual basis, prepared by Uveges. Uveges noted that sticker sales continued to decrease year-over-year. He emphasized the need for public outreach; Mr. Holder noted that the Transfer Station's full rate schedule was available on the DPW website. He also said that the number of households that were Transfer Station members was decreasing every year. There was discussion of raising the sticker fees, which had not been done since 2019.

There was discussion of the fact that Indirects were not being paid by the Transfer Station account (meaning the actual losses were greater than previously demonstrated). Wegerbauer said that, when the system was converted from a landfill to a Transfer Station, this was part of the agreement. He expressed that the goal should be to break even. Mr. Holder noted that \$75,000 was placed in the fund balance every year. He said that he would work with Uveges to more clearly assess the situation and make a recommendation on fees at the next meeting.

Included in the packet for discussion: spreadsheet on Transfer Station finances prepared by Tom Holder, spreadsheet on Transfer Station finances prepared by Uveges.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the draft Minutes for the meeting dated 2/23/23. Greenbaum suggested an edit to clarify a comment about amending private well regulations. She also corrected a reference to the bylaws governing stormwater, citing Section 193. These changes were made.

Greenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/23/23, as amended. Uveges seconded, and a vote was taken.

Lewis aye, Greenbaum aye, Uveges aye, Wegerbauer aye. Motion passed (4-0-0).

Included in the packet for discussion: draft Minutes for meetings dated 2/23/23.

Shipping Containers at 195 Main Street

Greenbaum volunteered to meet with Ben Keefe to find out more about why the shipping containers were located near the middle school. Tom Holder clarified that there were 9 containers at the location, that they were owned and paid for by the Schools, and that they contained furniture that was moved during changing Covid-19 regulations (related to spacing of 6 ft between desks, etc.). He recommended contacting the Schools Department. Mr. Holder noted that Tom LaFleur, the Business Manager, would be resigning in about 5 weeks.

Board Members 'Reports, Concerns and Updates

Wegerbauer mentioned that the PFAS update he received recently included some items that were out of date, and he wanted to make sure that future updates were fully current. He said, for example, that there was a reference to the bottled water program that was now discontinued. Tom Holder said that current and future updates would focus primarily on sampling results and explanations of these. He said that a press release might be advisable, but he preferred to focus on nothing but factual information. Members agreed that they would reach out to Town Manager Michael McCall to address the layout of the PFAS website.

Wegerbauer asked for a status update on fencing at the Happy Hollow Water Treatment Facility. Tom Holder said that he was not positive about the status of fencing, but he believed Don Millette was working with the IT Department on security measures. He noted that MassDEP had

never mentioned security issues in their evaluations of the site, but he appreciated that this was a concern for residents, so he said he would make it a priority.

Wegerbauer said that he had reached out to Michael McCall regarding the daycare center at 863 Boston Post Road, to fill him in on the history of the BoPW's concerns and efforts around traffic congestion.

Wegerbauer asked about plans for crosswalks at high-traffic areas and the status of the crosswalk inventory. Joe Doucette said that he and the Police Chief had reviewed all the crossings at or near the schools, and that they had made certain recommendations and changes regarding signage and lighting. Lewis said that they would put the crosswalk inventory on a future meeting agenda. Tom Holder also noted that, at some of the MWRA aqueducts, the MWRA had posted "no trespassing" signs, meaning that Wayland could not install crosswalks in violation of these.

Dates for Next Meetings

The next regular BoPW meetings were set for 5/16/23, 6/20/23, and 7/18/23. There was also Town Meeting, coming up on 5/1/23.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Prior to Posting, if any

None.

Adjourn

Wegerbauer made a motion to adjourn. Greenbaum second, and a vote was taken.

Lewis aye, Greenbaum aye, Uveges aye, Wegerbauer aye. Motion passed (4-0-0).

BoPW meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Callahan
Minutes Taker