



Chelmsford Water District

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CHELMSFORD WATER DISTRICT REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING December 13, 2023

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Ronald W. Wetmore

John G. Harrington

Richard Romano

Business Director/Treasurer

Lisa Quatrale

Distribution Manager

Brandon Cannata

Water Quality Manager

Robert Hayes

Foreman

Mark Sides

Manager-Service Tech

Dan Tringale

AECOM

Steve DeFrancesco, PE

Bryan Sadowski, PE

Rhonda DeFrancesco, PE

Consultant

Robert Delaney

Resident

Marc Gibbs

Resident

Joel Luna

Resident

Ruth Luna

Recording Secretary

Michaela Thompson

Meeting opened at 1:04pm.

Open Sessions began with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PFAS Project Status - AECOM representative Steve DeFrancesco distributed a handout to the Board, titled Chelmsford Water District PFAS Improvements Update, dated December 13, 2023. Contents included an overview of the project activities to date, conceptual site plan of improvements at Crooked Springs WTP, layout views of process equipment and architectural sections. Commissioner Romano asked about the outlined empty space on the Mechanical Process Floor Plan. Mr. DeFrancesco stated that the space is allocated for future ion-exchange vessels if needed, in case the threshold numbers are lowered or other compounds are discovered. Discussions continued around construction style and material to be used and the type of garage door that would be needed. Conversations unfolded regarding the line that will run from Smith Street WTP to the Crooked Spring WTP. Commissioner Wetmore asked if there was an estimate to run this line. Mr. DeFrancesco stated \$1m - \$1.5m per mile. Mr. Sadowski said since it will cut through school property, it is approximately 2.5 miles. Commissioner Wetmore asked when the earliest the project could get started. Mr. DeFrancesco stated the soonest would be by mid-2025. Commissioner Romano asked when the AECOM representatives would be back and Ms. Quatrale asked for an updated project timeline. Mr. DeFrancesco stated that they would be back for the January meeting with more details, an updated timeline and they plan on preparing construction costs for February.

Dish Contract – Lisa Quatrale stated that the contract has been reviewed by the Attorney James Hall and is ready for signing. \$1,064,066.83 over 20 years.

Residents: Ruth and Joel Luna presented themselves to the Board. Mrs. Luna said she had previously sent a letter to the Board and wanted to express her disappointment that Andy Reid was no longer with

the District and she wanted to know why. Chairman Wetmore told Mrs. Luna that legally there isn't a lot the Board can say. She stated that she had spoken to Mr. Reid regarding three separate locations that were near town wells. Brandon Cannata stated that the District is working with the Town and the Board of Health regarding those properties.

Mr. Luna asked about the District's Groundwater SOP. Commissioner Wetmore clarified that at the District's July 2023 meeting Mr. Reid had presented a proposed update to the District's Rules and Regulations regarding Groundwater Protection. At that meeting the Board felt comfortable with agreeing to the first Paragraph only and that the remaining part of the draft SOP regarding Groundwater Protection needed further review by the Board. Mr. Luna did not know that. He stated he thought it was a good standard and he looked forward to working together with the District and the Town.

Business Director's Report/Treasurer's Report – Distribution & Treatment Report

Two Reports were distributed to the Board entitled:

- 1) December 2023 – Commission Meeting Business Director Report, which included documentation: FY24 Capital Spend, November Expense vs. Revenue Snapshot and November 2023 Expense Breakdown.
- 2) Distribution & Treatment Report – December 13, 2023

Updates included:

Liens: Finalized list of 138 accounts, totaling \$64,489.70, were sent to the Town for inclusion on the 3rd and 4th quarter real estate tax bills. She noted that these accounts have not paid a water bill since last fiscal year.

FY23 Audit: Officially certified on November 20, 2023 in the amount of \$3,715,380.00. Total includes approximately 1.6m of Infrastructure funds that remain in general funds until moved via warrant article in April. These funds are meant for infrastructure only.

ATT Generator: Received noise study that appears to meet all requirements and responded back to Rita Bailey, Site Acquisition specialist. As of this date, Ms. Quatrala had not heard back.

Asset Management Grant - \$150k: Working with Environmental Partners in regards to project and in turn working with Mass DEP on form submission for grant reimbursement.

Groundwater Protection: An update was forwarded to East and North Water Districts outlining that the SOP that was submitted to the Town, without the knowledge of the Board, was not approved at District meeting for inclusion into the District's Rules and Regulations. Proposing to go over this in more detail next meeting.

2024 Rates: As of 01/01/2024 rates and fees are increasing. Website and brochures have been updated.

IT: Meeting scheduled with Stratus Point IT to review current and future IT requirements.

243 Riverneck Road: Conversation with owner is ongoing. Waiting on well test results.

Insurance Claim – 13 Hillside:

Property owner has forwarded concern about future potential damage. Commissioner Wetmore stated that he suggested in the beginning the District stabilize the issue on the District's property. Ms. Quatrala reviewed that the District added hay bales and silt fencing to stabilize until the spring. In the spring, the District will loam and reseed. She also added that property owner requested that the hay bales and silt fencing be removed. Commissioner Wetmore indicated that the District's obligations have been met.

Distribution: Staff gearing up for winter. Hydrant winterization is close to being completed (over 1500 hydrants). Snow equipment prepped and sander has been installed on the one ton. New drain line for gutter system installed to alleviate icy driveway conditions.

Completed items:

112 Billerica Road – service leak/drainage issue – complete

Woodbine Extension/Dulgarian Terrace – complete

Beaver Dams: Assisted Stormwater Division to eliminate the dam which would affect wells on Turnpike Road. Still in the process of lowering/removing the dam on Canal Street.

Truck 4: Arrived and lettered. Old truck currently on Municibid with latest bid of \$8,800.00.

PFAS Treatment: Quarterly samples have been taken. This month's PFAS numbers are below the 20ppt threshold.

Tank Inspections: Yearly inspections completed with use of drone and lifts. Only Summit tank needs repairs. Reaching out to contractors to get estimated cost of repairs.

Riverneck Treatment Plant: Carbon Filtration Systems began replacement of Aeration balls. Placed into containers and transported to the transfer station for disposal. Upon inspection at the transfer station a hit of radioactivity was received. Due to this the containers were sent back to treatment plant and Chase Environmental will be in charge of coordinating with a specialty lab for testing and disposal. Updates to be provided.

Route 3 Fuel Spill: Notified by DEP of fuel spill on 11/15/2023. As of this date there is no concern of Canal Road Well contamination. The Well is offline, but it will be monitored. Full report located on DEP website #3-0038474.

Meadowbrook 2 Well casing repair: Job went out to bid. Discussions needed regarding the cost of job and the available warrant amount.

Environmental Compliance/GIS: Lead and Copper line survey due 12/15/2023 per DEP is already completed. Appointments being made to complete inspections. Dan Tringale created an online dashboard to track remaining accounts. Only 334 left out of 8,093, due by October, 2024.

PFAS testing results (also updated on CWD Website):

Riverneck – Nov 19.2, Dec 19.2

Crooked Springs – Nov 19.4, Dec 19.2

Reports submitted:

Quarterly TTHMs

MA DEP Monthly reporting

Consumer confidence and ASR have been started as well.

Website: Dan Tringale created a user-friendly map on the CWD website so customers can see which treatment plant they get their water from. In addition, he created a chart showing the current PFAS numbers. The chart is updated monthly after the results have been posted.

Staff: Melony Gallagher has passed her D 1 exam. She and Jake Kostro are also enrolled in an upcoming Backflow course at New England Water Works.

The Dish Contract was signed by the Commissioners.

Next Meeting Scheduled: January 17, 2024 at 1:00pm.

Commissioner Rick Romano made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2023 Regular Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. Commissioner Wetmore, Aye, Commissioner Romano, Aye and Commissioner Harrington, Aye. The motion was unanimously approved

Commissioner Romano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows: Mr. Wetmore, Aye, Mr. Romano, Aye and Mr. Harrington, Aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 2:30pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Michaela A. Thompson
Recording Secretary**