

WAYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Town Building
41 Cochituate Road
Wayland, MA 01778
October 17, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Present: C. Lewis (Chair), E. Chiang, S. Greenbaum, G. Uveges, M. Wegerbauer. Also present: Carol Martin (Select Board Liaison to the BoPW), Robbie Bullard (Zoom moderator).

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

None.

Public Comment

None.

Review of Shredding Event on October 14

Joe Doucette reviewed the recent shredding event. He noted that there was a light turnout, with a total of 49 cars. They sold 14 one-day passes. Mr. Doucette said that, in speaking with participants, their main stated obstacle to using the Transfer Station was inconvenience. They had filled just under one of the two trucks they had reserved. Mr. Doucette's recommendation for future was to hold the shredding event once every two years.

Introduction of Abigail Charest, recently hired Town Engineer

Tom Holder introduced Ms. Charest, highlighting her backgrounds in consulting and academia. Ms. Charest gave a brief review of her education and career to date. She said she was excited to be working close to her home in Sudbury.

BoPW Members introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Charest to Wayland.

Review of Water Abatement Process

Uveges reviewed the report he had made on the water abatement process, and Members and Staff proposed changes to it.

There was a review of the current procedure for testing meters at users' requests. There was also discussion of what evidence was required from users for abatement, and how to specify this in advance. After discussion, Members agreed to specify that applicants should provide evidence that the source of the problem has been fixed before coming before the BoPW for an abatement. Don Millette noted that DPW Staff verify that problems have been fixed via on-site visits in every case, prior to abatement hearings. It was also agreed to specify that an abatement could be granted once, but not twice, to the same user.

There was discussion of reasonable timeframes for filing abatement requests. Members agreed to put a limit of six months after the billing date for users to file these requests. It was also decided to specify that the process would consider 3 prior years' worth of bills, during the same seasonal period, for comparison.

Uveges said that he would incorporate all Member comments into a new draft of his report.

Included in the packet for discussion: write-up on water abatement process, prepared by Uveges.

Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Substances Update

Tom Holder said that the treatment system was still operating as designed, and that they were still delivering non-detect results. He noted that the lease for the equipment was up in June 2024, so the BoPW and Staff would need to decide what to do beyond that. He said that ECT2 had quoted a price of approximately \$200,000 for removal of the current resin and installation of new resin. Mr. Holder noted that it would likely be possible to buy the treatment equipment outright, if the Town preferred to do that over renewing the lease.

Water Model Update

Lewis reviewed the proposed changes to the water model. He highlighted the desire for reconciliation between actual water usage and the amount of water billed. Tom Holder clarified that unbilled water could be separated into two categories: one, unaccounted-for water, and the other, authorized, unbilled water (e.g. fire hydrant flushing, firefighting, etc.). He also noted discrepancies between his own figures and the spreadsheet prepared by Matt Abrahams.

There was discussion of the potential impact of the new meters on billing and usage. There was also discussion of making the figures and the units of measurement more consistent. Members reviewed the previously designated contingency of \$200,000 from Retained Earnings. Wegerbauer emphasized that this contingency was purely an accounting mechanism.

At this time, approximately 7:51 pm, Wegerbauer left the meeting.

There was discussion of the actual cost of producing water. It was decided that the BoPW would ask Matt Abrahams for a simple breakdown of what the cost was to produce a cubic ft of water. Uveges asked what happened to monies that were budgeted as revenue but not actually collected (e.g. the Town Pool funds, which were in arrears); Tom Holder said that he would consult Town Finance Director Brian Keveny about this question.

Included in the packet for discussion: spreadsheet on water billing and usage, prepared by Matt Abrahams.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Update

Tom Holder gave an update on the Emergency Connection. He said that the pump and the skid would be delivered mid-December, due to a supply chain issue. He also said that they had a contractor on board to set up the connection at the Hultman Aqueduct, and that it should be ready for activation in mid-January 2024. He said that they had planned a one-page press release for when the construction work began.

Mr. Holder also updated on the permanent connection. He said that they had been working on an appropriations Article for Annual Town Meeting 2024, but that, after consulting with all knowledgeable parties, it was determined that they could not give a reasonable, defensible figure for the project within that timeline. There was discussion of the possibility of adding a Special Town Meeting later in 2024 for this item. Mr. Holder said that their current priority was getting an answer from MWRA about the connection at Shaft L.

Mr. Holder reviewed the Town's due diligence in choosing Kleinfelder to consult on long-term water supply. He said that they had submitted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services in 2021. They had received 5 responses, which were reviewed by a committee. He said that Kleinfelder scored very well overall, and he believed they had subsequently done good work for the Town. They had then submitted further proposals for scope of services and design.

Route 20 South Landfill Visioning Committee Update

Lewis said that the Visioning Committee had met a month prior, and that some of them had visited Acton to view a similar landfill reclamation site. There were also plans to visit another, similar site.

Tom Holder noted that they were due to meet with the Conservation Commission to hopefully receive an order of conditions for the landfill cap.

Director's Program Update

Tom Holder noted that Staff had recently done great work dealing with unprecedented flooding in areas of Town not previously known to flood.

Mr. Holder reviewed the FY 2025 Capital Budget process. He said that they had submitted their draft budget to the Finance Committee, and their next step was to meet with the Town Manager and Finance Director. There was discussion of the School wastewater system and related costs.

Board Members 'Reports, Concerns and Updates

Greenbaum asked if there was an update on the Town Pool. Mr. Holder said that there was not.

Greenbaum also mentioned that she had noted a commercial landscaper dumping yard waste at the Transfer Station; she asked what could be done to limit commercial use of the facility. Joe Doucette noted that there were already restrictions on registered commercial vehicles, but he said that it was extremely hard to enforce when commercial landscapers used personal vehicles. Greenbaum said that she would consult Staff and possibly draft some proposed policy language.

Greenbaum also noted that there was a totaled car near the Middle School, along with police vehicles. Tom Holder said that the wrecked car belonged to a DPW Staff member who had been in a serious accident a few days prior. Greenbaum said that the area looked like a junkyard, and requested that they write to Ben Keefe of the Facilities Department.

Approve Minutes for Board of Public Works (BoPW) Meetings

Members reviewed the draft Minutes for the joint tree hearing and shade tree hearing, both dated 10/10/23. Greenbaum asked about William Joseph's title; Mr. Holder said that he was an arborist retained by the Town. Greenbaum also suggested a minor correction for grammar. These changes were made.

Greenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/10/23, as amended. Chiang seconded, and a vote was taken.

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

Included in the packet for discussion: draft Minutes for meetings dated 10/10/23.

Set Dates for Upcoming Meetings

The next regular BoPW meetings were set for 11/21/23, 12/19/23, and 1/16/24.

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

None.

Adjourn

Uveges made a motion to adjourn. Greenbaum seconded, and a vote was taken.

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

BoPW meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Callahan
Minutes Taker