

Commissioners Present: Marshall L. Harris Chairman, Joseph M. Prior Vice Chairman, Paul C. DeMaio Clerk

Employees Present: Superintendent: Craig W. Jalbert; Secretary: Dale Barnes-Johnson

Open the Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Accept the Meeting Minutes: Paul made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 17, 2016. Marty seconded and it was unanimously voted.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Hospital Road Pump Rehab Project ~ the project is 95% complete, minor punch list items remain, PLC software functionality is complete, pH probe is now as it should be for wastewater application, pumps are at 1150 GPM peak each. The larger replacement day tank and its installation remain unresolved; installation of the tank and control panel across the room will be a very expensive change order. The company it was ordered from does not want to take the tank back as it is not a standard tank. Craig is reluctant to eat the cost from extra conduit and time and has asked T&H to look into how the tank was spec'd out. Until T&H resolves this situation it is unknown what grant funds will remain to go towards the wish list items which include lighting (installing LED's or changing ballasts out with efficient bulbs, aeration system (\$3,000) to prevent grease build up in the wet well, new sampler (\$4,800), GIS tablets (\$1,000), and fencing (\$6,000).

Water & Sewer Personnel ~ Friday is the last day applications will be accepted for the W&S Maintenance Worker position, there are a few promising applicants. Craig would like to have the Tuition and Training Cost and Payment for Exam Registration Costs agreements in place to set up a policy if the employee drops out of the program or fails to become certified or is terminated from employment within five years of completion date, a pro-rated portion of the tuition cost must be repaid.

Water Meter Replacement ~ the current meters are 16 years old and nearing the end of their lifespan, now is the time to start to think about where their replacement best fits within the Capital Plan. Craig met again with the Zenner meter representative, a 15 year accuracy guarantee is offered because of the design 80% of the meters in the world are multi jet. The only moving parts in the water meter are the rotor assembly and vertical shaft, water flows through the turbine section which causes the rotor to turn proportionately to the quantity of the water flowing through the meter and is immune to sand and grit. A preliminary quote offers two options. Option 1 = 1,400 Meters \$75 ea, Installation \$95 ea, \$238,000 total; the existing touchpad would be reused and retain the same reading system and handhelds used today; readings would still need to be done by two employees. This remains a very time-consuming process; a total of 20 days a year for two employees is spent capturing meter reads for quarterly billing.

Option 2 is dependent on long-established technology of radio reads. Water meters form a chain sending radio signals to one another, a data collector transmits the data to collecting units which talk to one another, communicates back to the office using cloud data, usage is known immediately, data is accurate, enables leak discovery, and eliminates staff time of two employees to meter read. Automatic reading technology has advanced from the old radio reads which still require employees to go out and obtain reads. Option 2 estimated cost for meters, meter & MIU Installation and establishing the Fixed Network is \$412,965 this total included meter installation which is \$133,000 at prevailing wage rates.

The Commission agreed it is a good investment and to stay on the path to protect revenue and discussed preliminary funding options such as a USDA Loans and or possibly using the interest from the MTBE Settlement. It will be interesting to see the results from the October leak detection; if none are found then we will know we have an issue with our old meters not fully registering all the usage like when they were new.

Department Activity

Valve Maintenance ~ the valve at the intersection of Lower Hampden and Highland Ave was dug up. The packing was tightened and a new operating nut and valve box were installed.

Water Service Leak (Act #0015) ~ the leaking service to 50 High Street was shut off and is temporarily being serviced by a house to house connection until repair/replacement of the line takes place.

103R Main Street Water Line Separation ~ different contractors have been inquiring about the proposed work.

Hydrant Flushing Program ~ hydrant flushing has been proceeding as planned. As usual the water has been dirty at first but is clearing up quickly.

Pump Station Control Valve Modifications ~ Brad Small came out and rebuilt the PARCO surge control valves at the Bunyan and Palmer Road stations and a new pilot valve was installed on the pressure relief valve at the Bethany Rd.

station to allow that unit to respond and operate more quickly. The new hydrant pressure relief valve was also delivered to us.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting has been set for Wednesday October 5, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Marty to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul C. DeMaio, Clerk
cc: Selectmen