

## **WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS JANUARY 10, 2023**

The Wellesley Board of Public Works held a duly posted open online remote meeting beginning at 5:00 PM.

Remote participants included Commissioners Ellen Korpi and Jeffrey Wechsler; Director David A. Cohen; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown, Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr.; Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olsen; Executive Assistant Debra Sumner; and Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen.

Vice Chair Korpi called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following reference to the minutes proposed for approval and upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was.

**VOTED:** To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2022, as presented (2-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye  
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

Mr. Bender was not available to attend this meeting.

### **CITIZEN SPEAK**

Vice Chair Korpi provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works. No participants attended the meeting.

### **DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

**Advisory Committee Liaison Update.** Mr. Cohen invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any matters of interest to the Advisory Committee to the attention of the Board.

Mr. Pedersen conveyed that Advisory Committee members are most interested in Warrant Articles to come before Annual Town Meeting. He also reconfirmed the meeting he and Director Cohen have planned to review the budgets, DPW related Warrant Articles and the baler.

The Director confirmed for the Board that a BPW Meeting would be posted for the BPW's participation, and potential deliberation, in the Advisory Committee Meeting on January 18.

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS**

**January 10, 2023**

**Page 2**

**Employee Updates.** Director Cohen made the Board aware of employee related updates. He began by introducing to the Board and Mr. Pedersen to recently hired Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson. Ms. Korpi and Mr. Wechsler both welcomed Mr. Olson to the Department. Mr. Wechsler also emphasized the Board is here to help and be supportive to the staff, through Director Cohen. Mr. Olson responded that he is grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to meeting them in person in the future. Director Cohen also reported that Water & Sewer Division General Foreman Dwight "Smitty" Rogers had recently undergone surgery for prostate cancer is doing well and on the road to recovery. He reported that Senior Management Analyst Christopher Cusack has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, for which he will be receiving treatment in early February. Mr. Cohen conveyed that in both cases the doctors are feeling confident about the advantage of early detection. One additional highlight was the announcement that Staff Engineer Bernardo Niati and his wife are welcoming the arrival of their new baby girl, born December 31, 2022.

Ms. Korpi and Mr. Wechsler requested the Director extend the Board's well wishes to those addressing medical issues and congratulations to the fortunate parents.

**Stormwater Utility Update.** Director Cohen conveyed that since the last BPW meeting he and Town Engineer Hickey provided an update to the Select Board (SB). The presentation was well received, and the SB expressed support for it. Director Cohen reported Staff is preparing a Q&A and recently a letter was distributed to all Town Meeting Members (TMM) to explain the stormwater utility. Mr. Cohen confirmed having received only two responses so far, conveying appreciation for our reaching out to provide advance notice. Staff is looking forward to bringing the matter to Annual Town Meeting. Town Engineer Hickey added that he and other staff continue to meet on a regular basis with representatives from Tighe & Bond, as well as updating the website to keep information current.

**PFAS Update.** Director Cohen conveyed the latest information related to the interim PFAS treatment system. He reported PFAS numbers at the Rosemary/Longfellow site are getting higher and we would be in violation if they exceed 20, which would trigger the public notification process and decide what to do with that site. In the meantime, staff continues to await lab results for this location as efforts continue to advance exploration of PFAS sources at Morses Pond and Rosemary/Longfellow, which he anticipates will most likely be inconclusive. While efforts to identify the source(s) of PFAS are ongoing, Director Cohen reported the search to identify a source of the contaminant has been expanded at Morses Pond.

Mr. Cohen reported a workshop with MWRA representatives has been scheduled on January 24 to discuss the MWRA's secondary connection.

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS**

**January 10, 2023**

**Page 3**

**RDF Update.** The Director reported the Christmas Tree Pilot Program has three participants and is working well.

Mr. Cohen notified the Board that wood recycling might become a budget issue as he has been notified by RDF staff of some potential cost budget challenges related to wood recycling. Staff has identified a dramatic uptick in residential wood recycling, as well as an increase in prices to dispose of material. Additional information will be available in the coming days. The Board suggested determining the sources and components of the wood debris might prove to be useful.

**Rosemary and Longfellow Replacement Wells.** Director Cohen notified the Board it was determined deferral of the well replacement for reasons outlined in his memorandum.

Mr. Cohen discussed results of sampling around each well location and noted higher levels were detected from Longfellow vs. Rosemary. The Director explained consideration is being given to having only the replacement for Rosemary constructed and discontinue regular use of Longfellow. The current plan is for the existing bid specification to be rewritten to reflect that change. It was acknowledged the Environmental Protection Agency' (EPA) regulatory guidance will be valuable in influencing future determinations.

Following a review of Mr. Cohen's recommendation and upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was,

**VOTED:** That no contract award for Contract No. 23C-470-1702," Rosemary and Longfellow Replacement Wells" be made at this time (2-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye  
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

**Weston Road Reconstruction.** Director Cohen confirmed the DPW had the design funds in 2022 and then requested Town Engineer Hickey review the project background.

Mr. Hickey began his overview of Weston Road reconstruction, which is being designed by Engineering Staff and funding will be requested at Annual Town Meeting. He confirmed the survey has been completed, explained the Project Background and showed photos of sidewalks on both sides of the road being in poor condition. He also outlined the project challenges and opportunities, which included curbing and low sidewalk that present both safety and drainage concerns. He noted that trees, fences

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS**

**January 10, 2023**

**Page 4**

and landscaping present safety and sight distance concerns, including important street functions and heavy corner influence. Mr. Hickey referred to drainage and design concerns and next steps, as well as the proposed timeline. In mid-January a presentation will be made to the Advisory Committee, followed by a neighborhood meeting toward the end of the month. In February there will be design and project plans with a goal to bid the project in March, in preparation for a planned start of construction in June. Mr. Hickey noted this proposed timeline for work to begin would be contingent upon receiving ATM approval and advance access to funds.

Following a brief discussion about whether bids would be in hand for Annual Town Meeting (ATM), it could not be confirmed. Staff was asked to inquire if this article could be taken up at a later time within ATM, if necessary. It was acknowledged that determination would be the Moderator's decision.

The Director thanked Mr. Hickey for his informative presentation.

**Statement of Fact Activity Report.** Director Cohen referred to the report and noted there were no changes to add to the version included in the last Board package.

**Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Financial Statements.** The Director conveyed the financial statements for the month of November 2022 will be available for review at the next meeting.

**DPW Monthly Report.** Director Cohen referred to division highlights including Key Performance Goals, Key Challenges & Opportunities and Key Metrics reflected in this report from DPW Engineering; Highway; Park & Tree; Recycling & Disposal Facility; Water & Sewer; Health & Safety; and Additional Information.

Mr. Cohen noted, that in addition to other highlights included in this report, of particular interest is having Water & Sewer Superintendent Steve Olson on board. Director Cohen also reported the Mass DEP Water Management Program's Water Management Act (WMA) regulations were amended. He confirmed the State has passed regulations to condition the DPW's registration, which will impact water conservation dramatically. New watering restrictions will be limited to one day per week, instead of the odd/even guidelines.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**Page 5**

**Next BPW Meeting.** Following a brief discussion and due to a conflict, a new meeting date of Monday, February 13, at 5:30 p.m. was suggested, vs. February 14 as originally planned. Director Cohen conveyed he will be in contact with Chair Bender regarding this proposed change.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Ms. Korpi, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** To adjourn (2-0).

Mr. Wechsler – Aye  
Ms. Korpi – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

*Jeff Wechsler*

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**Jeffrey Wechsler**  
**Secretary**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS  
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2023  
5:00 PM**

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2022. **BOARD APPROVAL AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

**B. CITIZEN SPEAK**

**C. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATE.** Director to inquire if Mr. Pedersen has information to bring to the attention of the Board and Staff. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**E. STORMWATER UPDATE.** Director and Town Engineer to refer to most recent planning accomplished by staff and consultants related to proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

**F. PFAS UPDATE.** Director to refer to most recent activity related to this matter. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**G. RECYCLING & DISPOSAL FACILITY UPDATE.** Director to provide update on Christmas tree drop off and new waste ban items. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**H. ROSEMARY/LONGFELLOW WELL REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION.** Director to provide update on status of potential project and recommendation not to award the contract at this time. **BOARD VOTE AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

**I. WESTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION.** Director to review planning for this proposed project. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**J. STATEMENT OF FACT ACTIVITY REPORT.** Director to reference the report reflecting listing of purchases. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**K. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.** Director to confirm the financial statements for the month of November 2022 were not ready to be included in this package. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

**L. DPW MONTHLY REPORT.** Director to refer to division highlights listed in report. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**