

**WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS
JUNE 7, 2022**

The Wellesley Board of Public Works held a duly posted open online remote meeting beginning at 4:02 PM.

Remote participants included Chair Jeffrey P. Wechsler and Commissioner Scott Bender and Ellen Korpi; Director David A. Cohen; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown; Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr., Water & Sewer Superintendent William J. Shaughnessy; RDF Superintendent Manzolini; Executive Assistant Debra Sumner; and Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen. Lara and Jaden Crawford of 15 Rice Street attended as interested citizens.

Chair Wechsler called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2022, as amended (2-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Wechsler second – Aye

Mr. Bender abstained as he was not in attendance at this meeting.

Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Chair Wechsler invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any matters of interest to the Advisory Committee to the attention of the Board. Mr. Pedersen conveyed the Committee continues to look forward to an update on the status of the proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund. Director Cohen replied Staff is arranging large stakeholder engagements seeking feedback prior to providing a proposal to the Board.

CITIZEN SPEAK

Chair Wechsler provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works. Ms. Crawford conveyed to the Board and Staff that she and her husband, were present to listen to the follow-up discussion related to the Reusables Area, as raised at the Board's May 10, 2022 meeting. Ms. Crawford invited her husband to attend to provide additional input regarding his experiences and observations on the matter. Further discussion was deferred until the item was to be addressed later in the meeting. No other citizens participated in the meeting and no one else chose to speak.

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PFAS Update. Mr. Cohen conveyed the latest information related to the interim PFAS treatment system. He noted that recent sample testing results taken appear to be favorable. Staff awaits the official written report to confirm findings.

Director Cohen reported that the system recently experienced an equipment failure with the filter media barrier. The screen unit became dislodged from its placement, which enabled the filter media to enter into the ion exchange vessel. The issue was recognized by Staff due to the readings on the pressure gauges, which are checked on a daily basis. It was confirmed that Clean Harbors was able to address the issue and make the repair.

Staff responded to inquiries from the Board regarding the potential ramifications of such a failure and what safety measures and protections are in place to alert Staff of future issues with the system.

Annual Reorganization of the Board of Public Works. Chair Wechsler announced that the Board would move forward with voting the annual reorganization of the Board of Public Works that occurs every June and becomes effective each July 1.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi to nominate Scott Bender as Chair of the Board of Public Works, and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, it was unanimously,

VOTED: To elect Scott Bender as Chair of the Board of Public Works, effective July 1, 2022, 3-0.

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler to nominate Ellen Korpi as Vice Chair of the Board of Public Works, and seconded by Mr. Bender, it was unanimously,

VOTED: To elect Ellen Korpi as Vice Chair of the Board of Public Works, effective July 1, 2022, 3-0.

Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye
Ms. Korpi – Aye

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Upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Bender, to nominate Jeffrey Wechsler as Secretary of the Board of Public Works, it was unanimously,

VOTED: To elect Mr. Wechsler as Secretary of the Board of Public Works, effective July 1, 2022, 3-0.

Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye

Declaration of State of Water Supply Conservation. The Director referred to the existing Town Bylaw 49.12.b – Restriction on the Use of the Town’s Water Supply, which allows the Wellesley Police to carry out enforcement action, if necessary. While the odd/even schedule is specifically conveyed in the Bylaw, Mr. Cohen suggested it be formalized in more detail to achieve greater clarification and eliminate confusion.

Following a brief discussion and motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Bender, it was unanimously,

VOTED: That the Board of Public Works declare a State of Water Supply Conservation due to a shortage of water because 1) the Moses Pond Treatment Plant is offline reducing local capacity and when the plant comes back online with PFAS treatment it will do so at a diminished capacity; and 2) a Level 1 – Mild Drought Declaration is in effect for the Southeast Massachusetts region; and 3) the current MWRA connection is not sufficient to meet typically peak summer demand; and that conservation measures are needed to ensure adequate supply for all users.

It was the consensus of the Board that this provides an opportunity to promote best practices to encourage conservation and alternatives toward lawn maintenance.

Re-activation of Moses Pond Treatment Plant. Director Cohen notified the Board that as part of the PFAS discussion, with final preparations underway for bringing the Moses Pond Treatment Plant back on-line with the new Interim PFAS Treatment System, he is requesting the Board formally vote support for turning the plant on, pending DEP approval.

The Director also noted that when the plant is brought back online it will be at a reduced capacity. Therefore, Mr. Cohen he suggested it is prudent to continue with the State of Water Supply Conservation Declaration and mandatory outdoor water restrictions.

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Following a discussion and upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, it was unanimously,

VOTED: To authorize the Director, or his designee, to re-start the Moses Pond Water Treatment Plant with interim PFAS treatment, pending all required approvals from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Bender suggested it would be helpful if Staff would develop a chart identifying key metrics to outline and reflect capacities.

PARK & HIGHWAY Division

Statement of Fact – Contract #23C-420-1697 - Sidewalks and Granite Curbing Installation & Replacement. The Director referred to the Bid Recommendation prepared by Park & Highway Superintendent Michael Quinn. Following a brief discussion and upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Bender, it was unanimously,

VOTED: That Contract #23C-420-1697 Sidewalks & Granite Curbing Installation and Replacement bid be awarded to Richard F. D'Ambrosia, Inc., 166 White Street, Weymouth, MA 02190 for a total bid price of \$159,712.00 (3-0).

Mr. Bender conveyed that granite curbing comes up periodically as a safety concern for cyclists entering a road and inquired if there is "safe" granite curb. The Director responded that a map will be provided at the next Board meeting identifying granite curbing locations. Additional details will also be included on the DPW Monthly Report. Mr. Cohen also noted that most granite curb installations are likely associated with handicapped access ramps.

Recycling & Disposal Facility (RDF)

Reusables Area Discussion. Director Cohen opened the discussion by confirming that the comments and concerns voiced by the Crawford's were not new in nature and noted management of the Reusables Area has been a challenge over the years and continues to be the case.

Mr. Cohen elaborated by summarizing the history and challenges addressed over the years. The Director referred back to the early 2000s when it was decided to close the Reusables Area due to budget cuts, after which there was a groundswell of potential volunteers in attendance at a BPW meeting, present to voice their support for the reopening of the Area. The interested citizens offered to formalize a group of volunteers

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to assist RDF Staff manage the operation and carry out the primary work and activities involved. Operations resumed on a regular basis until the onset of Covid, at which time it became necessary to temporarily close the Area. When the Area reopened, once Covid-related restrictions were eased, the number of individuals willing to volunteer had decreased to the point that it became necessary to reduce the hours of operation.

Mr. Crawford thanked the Staff for giving this matter considerable thought and conveyed he found it to be encouraging. He emphasized the importance of reuse as a primary goal when donating to such an entity, rather than mere disposal of items into a landfill. Mr. Crawford also concurred that he had an appreciation for the potential challenges to be encountered in such an environment. Mr. Crawford shared with the Board and Staff how he has chosen to address some of his concerns, to the point that he has attempted to find another source or outlet to which to donate items. Also conveyed was his observation that some of the volunteers treat that Area as their own commercial enterprise and exhibit competition amongst themselves for retrieval of desirable items. He confirmed that other residents have also observed this behavior, which can be discouraging and encourages them to redirect their efforts, elsewhere. In conclusion, Mr. Crawford conveyed he would be willing to work with the DPW staff toward achieving a cost-effective solution.

Ms. Crawford then conveyed her sentiments voiced in the past and confirmed she echoed Mr. Crawford's appreciation for the efforts made by the staff and having taken an active interest in finding a solution.

Ms. Korpi conveyed to the Crawford's how much the Board appreciated having been made aware of the concerns and issues raised. Ms. Korpi also expressed being in favor of promoting reuse and the savings it can provide for residents. She suggested the possibility of making this offering available in an online format.

Both Messrs. Wechsler and Bender expressed their appreciation for the comments and acknowledged while the Area poses both advantages and disadvantages, an important part of the solution is for the Area to be an effective take and leave location, in keeping with the original spirit of the mission. Also acknowledged was the effort to be made to optimize an online opportunity this may present.

RDF Superintendent Manzolini conveyed his appreciation for the Crawford's comments and noted Staff is always seeking ways to improve the environment and experience. He confirmed everything said was accurate and he is aware of the pros and cons as Staff continues to work toward making improvements.

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In closing, Director Cohen reconfirmed that "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" continue to be major goals for the RDF, and aligned with the Climate Action Plan. He thanked the Crawford's for their feedback and for taking the time to participate in the meeting.

Mr. Cohen also emphasized the importance of noting the efforts of the volunteers who own this mission of the Reusables Area, which would not be possible to continue operation without their assistance.

The Staff and the Board briefly discussed future plans and the elements required to bring that vision forward for the Reusables Area.

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Financial Statements. The Director referred to the statements for the month of April. Following Ms. Korpi's compliment on the explanatory cover memo with additional context prepared by Mr. Cusack, it was noted cash is being drawn down, which further amplified the need for the rate increase. Mr. Wechsler noted that receivables have risen and the Director responded that the matter is being monitored to determine the reason for the increase.

Wellesley College (WC). The Director confirmed that we continue to supply WC with water until the installation of its PFAS treatment system is installed, which has been delayed due to delivery issues.

W&S Division Monthly Performance Report. The Director referred to the report prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent William Shaughnessy that references the Water & Sewer Division's activities during the month of April 2022 and responded to comments from the Board. There was no updated information to provide related to the source detection underway for PFAS.

Next Meeting. It was confirmed that the next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, June 30, start time of 4:00 or 5:00 p.m., to be confirmed. Mr. Cohen noted Agenda Items to be addressed will include Year-end Budget Reallocations, Capital Carry Forward, award of the College Road Pump Station Improvements Contract and submittals received in response to the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Transport & Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste, due on June 16.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

**Mr. Bender – Aye
Mr. Wechsler – Aye
Ms. Korpi – Aye**

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Ellen L. Korpi

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**Ellen Korpi
Secretary**

DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
JUNE 7, 2022
4:00 PM

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meeting of May 10, 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. PFAS UPDATE. Director to refer to most recent activity related to this matter, including Re-activation of Morses Pond Treatment Plant. **BOARD APPROVAL AND VOTE REQUESTED.**

F. BPW ANNUAL REORGANIZATION. Director to refer to proposed motions to reorganize. **BOARD VOTE REQUIRED.**

G. DECLARATION OF WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION. Director to refer to need for Board approval to delegate authority to the DPW Director to Declare State of Water Supply Conservation. **BOARD APPROVAL AND VOTE REQUESTED.**

H. STATEMENT OF FACT – CONTRACT #23C-420-1697 – SIDEWALKS & GRANITE CURBING. Director to refer to Bid Recommendation prepared Park & Highway Division Superintendent Michael Quinn. **BOARD APPROVAL & SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

I. REUSABLES AREA DISCUSSION. Director to pursue discussion with the Board regarding concerns expressed by a resident during the Citizen Speak portion of the May 10 meeting. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

J. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Director to refer to financial statements for the month of April 2022. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

K. WATER & SEWER DIVISION MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT. Director to refer to report for the month of April 2022 prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Shaughnessy. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**