

WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS
July 11, 2023

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

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

Chair Korpi called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following reference to the minutes from the most recent Board of Public Works meetings proposed for approval and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Ms. Korpi, the Board unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meetings of June 13, 2023, as presented (2-0).

Mr. Bender – Aye
Ms. Korpi – Aye

Mr. Wechsler arrived following this vote having been taken.

Following approval of the June 13, 2023 Open Session Minutes, Director Cohen referred to back to the June 13, 2023 meeting, itself. He explained to the Board that when the Executive Session Minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting were approved, they were referenced, inadvertently, in the Vote of approval as Executive Session Minutes of June 5, 2023, rather than May 9, 2023. Therefore, the Director requested, in order to correct that reference, that the Board revoke approval of the Executive Session Minutes of May 9, 2023.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Wechsler and seconded by Mr. Bender, the Board unanimously,

VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 9, 2023, as presented (3-0).

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

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CITIZEN SPEAK

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

Statement of Fact – Maintaining the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System - Contract No. 24P-470-1718. Director Cohen explained the SCADA System is used to control the Department's water treatment system and is a critical component of daily operations. Following the Director's review of the bid recommendation prepared by Water & Sewer Superintendent Stephen Olson, and upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, the Board unanimously,

VOTED: That Contract 24P-470-1718 for Maintaining the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System be awarded to Woodard and Curran of Dedham, MA all in accordance with their technical proposal, their proposed unit prices and total first year price of \$60,460.80 (3-0).

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

Asset Management Update Presentation. Director Cohen referred to the update to be provided on this partially grant funded program in which a partnership between the Town and MassDep's State Revolving Fund Grant program has developed over the last year.

Director Cohen explained that the implementation team was comprised of Public Works staff from the Water & Sewer, Highway and Engineering Divisions, as well as representatives from the Information Technology (IT) Department and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Town resources worked together with representatives from Weston & Sampson, Utility Cloud and MassDEP to achieve this goal. Director Cohen then provided the Asset Management Project Overview. He explained the initial purpose is to upgrade the utility system information into a cloud-based format, for water, wastewater, and stormwater departments. He then reviewed the goals and project benefits -- specifically enabling field access to digital records. Also covered were specifics within the project scope and tasks.

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Director Cohen explained that, in time, the plan is for the system to be expanded to include more workflows as well as other divisions and functions.

Following the presentation, the Director provided the Board with an opportunity inquire about the system. It was the consensus of the Board that the system is impressive and in addition to the value-added component, an additional benefit is that it is totally customizable.

Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Mr. Pedersen inquired if there has been any progress made toward determining a specific source or entity as a responsible party in contributing to the PFAS contamination. Director Cohen conveyed to Mr. Pedersen a potential strategy would be discussed later this evening during Executive Session in a Select Board Meeting, to later be made public when the Select Board returns to Open Session.

PFAS Update. The Director conveyed the current status would be addressed during the Executive Session portion to take place later in this meeting.

Director Cohen conveyed the most recent water sampling results related to PFAS as follows: Longfellow Treatment Plant was 13.0 PPT, Wellesley Avenue Treatment Plant was 9.38 PPT and the Morses Pond Treatment Plant remains at non-detect.

MWRA Second Connection. The Director reported that regarding this proposed segment, he participated in a meeting last week with representatives from the Town of Weston with whom there is a plan to partner in this effort. It was also noted that representatives from the Town of Natick have also expressed interest in participation. Mr. Cohen also confirmed the municipalities involved in the Benchmarking Meetings have expanded to include both Needham and Dover. He suggested this arrangement might provide a regional solution for the MWRA, which has expressed interest in exploring this as an option.

Recycling & Disposal Facility (RDF). Director Cohen confirmed that operations at the Facility continue to run smoothly.

Mr. Wechsler conveyed how much he appreciates the thoughtfulness of the new signage, as well as the aesthetic improvements, including the padding covering the edges of the fence railing and painting of doors, all of which have contributed to making the Facility appear that much neater and cleaner. He noted those improvements are reflective of the care by efforts made by the team and staff toward that end.

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Paul DePhillips. Director Cohen took this opportunity to report to the Board the recent news that former Park Division Superintendent Paul DePhillips had, sadly, passed away earlier in the week following a hard-fought battle with cancer. Mr. Cohen credited Mr. DePhillips with having taken an active initiative in the plan for a transition to battery-operated equipment.

Statement of Fact Activity Report. Director Cohen referred to the recent purchases including Kress battery backpack blowers and battery lawn equipment.

Director Cohen also referred to an additional purchase listed on the report of a slow speed shredder being utilized at the Recycling & Disposal Facility.

Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Financial Statements. The Director referred to the financial statements for the month of May 2023, combined with a cover memo prepared by Senior Management Analyst Cusack to Mr. Azano-Brown, highlighting key trends including the cash position remains strong. The content of the memorandum conveyed that for the month of May, FY 2023 year-to-date total operating revenues are up \$3,769,777 (68%) from the FY 2022 totals. The General Cash Balance on the Comparative Balance sheet at the end of April is \$4,504,372, which exceeds the 45-day cash reserve target of \$1,072,239 by \$3,432,133 (76%).

He referred to key Year-to-Date details from this fiscal year and other highlights including that the MWRA continues to be the primary water source for FY 2023 at 65% of the total pumped through May. Water use is up in every customer class from FY 2022's wet summer compared to FY 2023's dry summer.

For the Sewer Financial Statements, year-to-date total operating revenues for Sewer are up \$527,787 (7%) from FY 2022 totals. The General Cash Balance on the Comparative Balance sheet ended the month of May at \$992,387, which is \$446,059 (82%) more than the 45-day cash reserve target of \$546,328.

It was noted that Year-To-Date, the components of the net income increase include: Overall Operating expenses area up \$212K, primarily due to the FY 2023 MWRA assessment increase.

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DPW Monthly Report. Director Cohen conveyed the status of particular highlights of note. He reported the Collective Bargaining negotiations have been completed pending approval at Special Town Meeting. He also referred to the reconstruction of Walnut Street being slightly ahead of schedule with an anticipated final paving scheduled for mid-September. Park Division crews are preparing to make significant updates planned for the Sprague Elementary School Playground. And, congratulations to Jean Leger Application and Data Base Manager Jean Leger who is retiring after 18 years with the Town. EV charging stations at Police Station have been completed.

Next BPW Meeting. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held Tuesday, September 19, at 5:00 PM, unless the need arises to have a meeting in August.

FY 2024 DPW-Wide Director's Goals. The Director proposed one slight revision be made to reduce the solid waste goal based upon a consistent reduction in recent volume.

PFAS Litigation. At 5:59 PM the Director requested that the Board convene Executive Session to discuss potential litigation related to PFAS.

At 6:00 PM upon motion duly made by Mr. Bender, who then polled the Board to enter Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A §21A, Exemption Number 3 and invited David Cohen, David Hickey, Jeff Azano-Brown, Stephen Olson and Debra Surner to join as the Chair had declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's position. Upon exiting Executive Session, the Board will return to Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting.

It was voted unanimously,

VOTED: To enter Executive Session (3-0).

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

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ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Scott Bender

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Scott Bender
Secretary

REVISED – 7/11/2023

TOWN OF WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AGENDA REMOTE ONLINE MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023
5:00 PM

<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html>

Call to Order – Open Session

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - B. Citizen Speak
 - C. Advisory Committee Liaison Update
 - D. Director's Items
 - (D.1) SCADA Contract Approval**
 - (D.2) Asset Management Update Presentation**
 - E. PFAS Update
 - F. Recycling & Disposal Facility Update
 - G. Statement of Fact Activity Report
 - H. Water & Sewer Financial Statements
 - I. Water & Sewer Rates Follow-up Discussion
 - J. DPW Monthly Report
 - K. FY 2024 DPW-Wide Director's Goals
 - L. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair prior to posting, if any
 - M. New Business
 - N. Executive Session
 - M.G.L. c. 30A §21A, exemption #3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation.
- Adjournment

REMOTE MEETING PROTOCOL

Members of the public can watch the live meeting online:

<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html> The meeting will be live on local cable TV COMCAST 9 and VERIZON 39. Residents seeking to participate in Citizen Speak, or any other agenda item, should e-mail dpw@wellesleyma.gov prior to the meeting and a number will be assigned for speakers. All residents seeking to participate shall call into 781-489-7747 (Conference Line) and await the announcement of your assigned number to speak. Individuals wishing to participate who have not received a number shall be asked at the end of the agenda item if they would like to speak before the Board moves on to the next agenda item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
July 11, 2023
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Korpi to call the remote online meeting to order at ____ PM.

Ms. Korpi to announce: “This meeting is being streamed live on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 39 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at Wellesley Media.org.”

A. APPROVAL OF BPW MEETING MINUTES. Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2023. **BOARD APPROVAL AND SECRETARY SIGNATURE REQUIRED.**

At the meeting of June 13, 2023, the Executive Session Minutes of May 9, 2023 were approved but referenced, inadvertently, in the Vote of approval as Executive Session Minutes of June 5, 2023, rather than May 9, 2023. Therefore, it is requested that the Board revoke approval of the Executive Session Minutes of May 9, 2023.

B. CITIZEN SPEAK. Chair Korpi to inquire if any participants have called in to the meeting.

C. ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATE. Mr. Pedersen to be invited to bring any information to the attention of the Board and Staff. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

D. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

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

F. RECYCLING & DISPOSAL FACILITY UPDATE. Director to provide update on recent activity at the Facility. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

G. STATEMENT OF FACT ACTIVITY REPORT. Director to confirm recent purchases within this category. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

H. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Director to refer to the financial statements for the month of May 2023. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

I. WATER & SEWER RATES. Director to engage the Board in a follow-up discussion related to the recently approved Water & Sewer rate increases. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

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

K. FY 2024 DPW-WIDE DIRECTOR'S GOALS. Director to review specific deliverables and timelines for each goal. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION. Director to request Board convene Executive Session to discuss litigation, only to adjourn. **BOARD APPROVAL AND VOTE REQUIRED.**