

WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS RECORDS NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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

Remote participants included Chair Scott Bender, Commissioners Ellen Korpi and Jeffrey Wechsler; Director David A. Cohen; Assistant Director Jeff Azano-Brown, Town Engineer David J. Hickey, Jr.; Executive Assistant Debra Surner; and Advisory Committee Liaison Pete Pedersen. Also in attendance were the following MWRA staff members: Director, Tunnel Redundancy Program, Kathleen (Kathy) Murtagh, P.E., Community Relations Coordinator Carmine De Maria, Real Property Project Manager Colleen Guida and Tunnel Design and Construction Director Paul Savard.

Chair Bender called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: To approve the Open Session Minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2022, as presented (2-0).

Ms. Korpi – Aye
Mr. Bender – Aye

Mr. Wechsler was detained and arrived following the vote having been taken to approve those minutes.

CITIZEN SPEAK

Chair Bender provided anyone participating remotely with the opportunity to speak regarding matters pertaining to the Department of Public Works. There was no remote participation.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Advisory Committee Liaison Update. Chair Bender invited Mr. Pedersen to bring any matters of interest to the Advisory Committee to the attention of the Board. Mr. Pedersen responded the items of interest includes those to come before Annual Town Meeting and are listed among the agenda items to be reviewed at this meeting, with the exception of major projects, including Walnut Street Reconstruction.

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Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Director Cohen welcomed Ms. Murtagh and her MWRA colleagues to the meeting. Ms. Murtagh began by referring to the Program Update to be presented to the Board of Public Works on the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program, a portion of which will be implemented in the Town of Wellesley. Ms. Murtagh introduced the other members of the team involved in this project: Director of Design and Construction for the tunnel Paul Savard, Community Relations Coordinator Carmine De Maria and Real Property Project Manager Colleen Guida.

Prior to the presentation, Director Cohen clarified this Tunnel Program project stands separately and apart from the other MWRA project, which involves a second connection to be constructed in Town.

Ms. Murtagh referred to the topics she would cover in the overview of this program, which included:

- Defining the purpose of the MWRA and what they do
- The need for redundancy and the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program
- Tunnel Program overview
- Considerations for Selection of the Preferred Alternative
- Proposed Hegarty Pump Station Connection Shaft Site
- Conceptual Construction Schedule
- Land Acquisition
- Where to find information and how to contact the MWRA

Ms. Murtagh identified the various aqueducts and tunnels which make up the system and the timelines when improvements were made and significant needs ahead. She explained the Metropolitan Tunnel System services about 60% of water demand in the metropolitan area. Ms. Murtagh reviewed the condition of the existing Metropolitan Tunnel System and its required level of maintenance.

Ms. Murtagh explained the planned Tunnel Program provides redundancy to the existing tunnel system, which is in need of repairs. A redundant system, within the existing MWRA system, would provide a condition that would eliminate service interruption in the event repair is required. The overall schedule for the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program is as follows:

Preliminary Design: July 2020 to January 2024

Final design: Begin in 2024

Construction: Target 1st contract bid in 2027

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Ms. Murtagh conveyed all work is planned to be completed by 2040.

She also noted the conceptual construction schedule at the Hegarty Pumping Station Connection Shaft Site and reviewed the need for a temporary easement to be granted during construction and potential need for permanent easements and land acquisition, as well as permanent subsurface easements.

Additional information on the Tunnel Program, including the program documents (ENF, DEIR), is available by accessing: <https://www.mwra.com/mwtp.html>

Ms. Murtagh responded to inquiries from the Board of Public Works, including concerns related to anticipated potential well disruption on private properties, to which Ms. Murtagh responded is not expected to be an issue. She assured the Board that the MWRA conducts extensive planning in advance of construction to avoid unnecessary encounters. Ms. Murtagh explained property owners will not be aware of the drilling and tunnel work being constructed beneath their homes due to the extensive distance below ground level.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Director Cohen thanked Ms. Murtagh for providing such a comprehensive overview of the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program.

Director Cohen conveyed he would be working with the Select Board and Town Counsel regarding the plan for public outreach to be conducted in Wellesley.

Ms. Murtagh conveyed that in 2023, the next steps include a kickoff for geotechnical investigations within the town. The final DEIR will be issued toward the end of next year to address public comments on the draft. Meantime, she encouraged all those interested to access the MWRA information and submit questions and comments.

The Director conveyed he would work with Executive Director Meghan Jop to schedule another presentation to be provided by Ms. Murtagh and her colleagues to both the Select Board and the Natural Resources Commission at a future joint meeting.

Mr. Cohen thanked Ms. Murtagh for the informative presentation which concluded at 5:40 p.m., at which time the Board and Staff resumed review of the remainder of the agenda items.

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Stormwater Utility Update. Director Cohen began by referring to a recently held internal stakeholder meeting with Department heads held and confirmed that conversations will continue, including comments from IT on our parcel viewer. Staff is preparing outreach to Annual Town Meeting Members.

A draft credit policy is being created to help define what types of credits might be issued in response to requests for consideration by residents. Director Cohen confirmed that he and the Board of Public Works are on the Select Board's Agenda for its December 6 meeting to provide a Stormwater Utility Update. Meantime, staff is working with Town Counsel to confirm all is in order prior to moving forward.

PFAS Update. Director Cohen conveyed the latest information related to the interim PFAS treatment system. Mr. Cohen reported the Morses Pond well cleaning project is underway. He conveyed there is no news to report on exploration of potential PFAS sources. He explained staff is awaiting the October water test results, which will help to determine how things might move forward. Director Cohen confirmed he continues to await word from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on proposed regulations and that will inform some of the decision making going forward. The Director acknowledged a level of uncertainty continues. The November sampling will be done this week. In reply to Mr. Pedersen's inquiry as to whether the Director had concerns about the upcoming readings of the new wells, Mr. Cohen responded the recommendation for a contract award has been deferred at this time, as he continues to await DEP approval.

Recycling & Disposal Facility Update. Director Cohen discussed the impact of new, recently designated waste ban items, including mattresses, box springs and textiles. It was noted that textiles are nearly 100% recyclable and can be placed in various donation bins. Ms. Korpi emphasized the importance of clear signage being affixed to the bins to clarify what items are appropriate for the various bins. There was also a brief discussion regarding the need for the partners providing the donation bins to service and empty those collection containers on a regular, more frequent, basis. Complete information is available on the Town website www.wellelsleyma.gov. It was also noted that the Big Brother/Big Sister organization offers free pick up of donations at residences.

Mr. Cohen confirmed with the Board that specifics related to the request related to the planned Christmas tree drop off plan to be initiated this year, in response to a request received last year, are in the works and more detail will be provided at the December Board meeting. A conceptual pilot program is being developed, including the transaction fee.

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Ms. Korpi thanked Mr. Cohen for being responsive to the resident who requested consideration of this request for this service being provided to residents.

FY 2024 Tax Impact Capital Budget Version 3. Director Cohen referred to Version 3 of this Capital Budget, which summarizes the anticipated capital needs of the Department of Public Works for FY24 through FY28. He conveyed the one change in this version is the deferral of the new Unaccepted Roads/Shared Private Ways project, which resulted in a cash-capital reduction of \$50,000 in the overall request. The revised total FY24 Tax Impact Capital Budget request from all sources is now \$10,382,000.

The FY24 cash capital request of \$5,737,000 is \$645,750 more than the \$5,091,250 FY24 projection in last year's five-year budget. The amount proposed to be funded through borrowing and our anticipated use of Chapter 90 funds and bonding funds is \$4,645,000.

This version includes \$985,000 for Drainage Improvements that would be removed from this request if Annual Town Meeting votes to adopt the Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

Also referenced was an updated summary of Capital 5 Year Plan Changes, which tracks the changes from last year's plan.

The Director reported he was notified of a change today regarding the resurfacing at Hunnewell Tennis Courts. The cost includes an additional \$110,000, due to an increased estimate.

The Board and Staff reviewed in detail the DPW FY2024 Capital Funding Request and Five Year Plan, which included the following line items: Street Improvement, Street Rehabilitation, Sidewalk Restoration, Private Ways, Drainage Improvements, FPW Facilities, Other, Athletic Field/Playground Improvements and Equipment Procurement, comprised of an extensive listing of vehicles.

A discussion ensued regarding the extension of the sidewalk on Washington Street to Elm Bank. Town Engineer Hickey confirmed that extension would remedy the missing connection link and would be highly valued by those who use that path as a walkway.

Following a review of various line items and responding to inquiries from the Board, the Director requested Board approval of this version of the proposed budget.

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At the conclusion of a thorough discussion and upon motion duly made by Ms. Korpi and seconded by Mr. Wechsler, it was

VOTED: To approve the FY 2024 DPW Tax Impact Capital Budget, Version 3, with a cash capital total of \$5,847,000 and a Bonding, Chapter 90 and Grand Total of \$4,645,000 for a total capital funding request of \$10,492,000, as presented (3-0).

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

FY 2024 Stormwater Enterprise Operating and Capital Budget, Version 1.0. The Director provided the Board with an overview of the initial version of this combined budget, in the event of the adoption of the proposed Stormwater Enterprise Fund. This total budget request in the amount of \$2,940,101, includes the Department's anticipated needs for FY 2024.

The Director referred to the categories to be addressed in the motion to be presented to Annual Town Meeting.

The Director also reviewed the direct and indirect costs associated with both Personal Services and Expenses.

For the Capital Budget, Mr. Cohen explained the Five-Year Capital Plan includes the recurring programs for Drainage System Rehabilitation, Repairs, and Equipment as have been projected in the DPW Tax Impact Capital Budget. This budget includes two new programs – Green Infrastructure Improvements and GIS System Mapping.

Mr. Cohen conveyed that staff would continue to refine this budget prior to the next BPW meeting.

Bid Recommendation and Statement of Fact – Contract #23S-420-1704 – Sodium Chloride (Road Salt). The Director referred to the Bid Recommendation prepared by Assistant Highway Superintendent Elizabeth Gildae.

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

VOTED: That Contract #23S-420-1704 for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) Furnished & Delivered be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, Mid-American Salt, 4528 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818 in accordance with our specifications and their bid prices as follows:

Item 1: Rock Salt	\$66.91/Ton
Item 2: Solar Salt	\$66.91/Ton

(3-0)

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

Rosemary/Longfellow Well Replacements. Director Cohen conveyed to the Board that it is recommendation that any action be deferred until the PFAS regulatory environment becomes more clear, the unknowns associated with the PFAS levels, combined of his having been notified by the Department of Environmental Protection that they will not arrive at a decision to grant approval for the work to be done until December. The Director's plan is to request that the contractor extend the period of time the bid will be valid. He also confirmed that without PFAS as an obstacle, there is a compelling case for this work to be done but due to the unknowns, it is prudent to defer any decision to recommend moving forward to a later time.

Mr. Cohen conveyed he would provide a more specific calculation to analyze the pay back at a future BPW Meeting to compare the cost associated with a decision to move to the MWRA as a single water source versus future anticipated well maintenance.

Statement of Fact Activity Report. The Director referred to the report and noted that there are no additions since the last version, he confirmed that the repair work to the gate and fence on the entry road to the Recycling & Disposal Facility has been completed.

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Declaration of State of Water Supply Conservation. Director Cohen referred to the Board's decision made last June to declare a State of Water Supply Conservation to be implemented throughout Town to encourage to practice/follow even greater conservation measures be followed. He confirmed that the majority of outdoor irrigation systems have been disconnected for the season and it is his recommendation the Board vote to rescind that directive.

Director Cohen explained over the next few months staff will review the data collected which identified those properties watering on the wrong day of the week. Winter outreach will be conducted to encourage users to adhere to the recommended usage. A plan will be developed for users to follow in order for their irrigation systems to be set up in a manner to coordinate with the recommended guidelines given the anticipated restrictions will be implemented again this coming spring. Mr. Cohen conveyed consideration will be given to identifying best practices, various regulations and potential incentives, as well as and learn from other municipalities about their conservation measures. Mr. Cohen added that outreach would also be extended to irrigation companies in an effort to make them aware of what the requirements might be. It was agreed that more advanced irrigation systems would be encouraged to achieve better conservation measures.

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

VOTED: That the Board of Public Works rescind the State of Water Supply Conservation, declared and voted upon June 7, 2022, (3-0).

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

Water Management Act Registration Update. Director Cohen conveyed to the Board that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is taking public comment, due November 18, on their proposed changes to the existing Water Management Act regulations, due November 18. He explained the changes are intended to place conditions on the Town's water registration withdrawals. Mr. Cohen confirmed it is his belief that these proposed conditions are contrary to the intent of the original agreement and emphasized the importance of maintaining local control of water withdrawals to the extent possible.

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The Director also reminded the Board that the Town of Wellesley has taken a long standing leadership position in opposing conditioning of its registration. The opposition included lengthy legal battles, which were upheld in court. Mr. Cohen reconfirmed his strong belief that preserving the rights and entitlements of registered water withdrawals is the best path forward for the Town. He requested that at this time the Board of Public Works confirms either their support or opposition to any advocacy to be undertaken. The Director confirmed that he and Town Counsel have been in contact regarding this matter and Town Counsel is prepared to assist with these efforts, as has been the case for many years.

Mr. Cohen also reconfirmed that in February, 2021 Representative Peisch signed on to House Bill 986, An Act to protect the rights of municipalities and districts. However, to date, the legislation has not advanced. Mr. Cohen conveyed demonstrating support of the spirit of that legislation could be an important part of Wellesley's contribution to any comments to be provided to the DEP.

Following a lengthy discussion related to the potential restrictions and requirements to be imposed upon the Town, it was the consensus of the Board they were supportive of the Director making public comment in opposition to relinquishing control of the Town's water supply and, instead preserving the right originally agreed upon.

Water & Sewer Financial Statements for July, August and September. Director Cohen referred to the three sets of statements provided in the Board package but concentrated on reviewing the content of the September statements. He explained the revenues are up due to the rate increase, as well as an increase in the number of gallons billed. He attributed this being primarily due to outdoor usage during a dry, warm summer. He also referred to operating expenses through the MWRA, which continues to be a partial source of our water, as well as additional payment for last year's usage.

Regarding the Sewer Enterprise Fund, Mr. Cohen confirmed staff would explore the anticipated increase in numbers due to MWRA increases and how the projected billing is handled in the new developments. The Director will provide his findings at a future BPW meeting.

Correspondence. Director Cohen referred to a resident's complaint received and directed to the attention of the Board about the condition of a crosswalk by St. Andrews Church. Mr. Cohen confirmed that repairs have been made to address the problem areas. Director Cohen said that both he and Town Engineer Hickey recommend removal of brick crosswalks for numerous reasons, but the ultimate decision of how to replace the existing crosswalks throughout Town will be decided by the Select Board.

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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 Administration; Engineering; Highway; Park & Tree; Recycling & Disposal Facility; Water & Sewer; Health & Safety; and Additional Information.

Mr. Bender conveyed how nicely put together the Monthly Report was to recap the most recent month's activities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn (3-0).

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Jeff Wechsler

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Jeffrey Wechsler
Secretary

**DISCUSSION ITEMS
WELLESLEY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2022
5:00 PM**

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Board to review the Open Session minutes of the meeting of October 18, 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. FY 2024 TAX IMPACT CAPITAL BUDGET. Director to refer to Version 3 of the proposed budget. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

I. FY 2024 STORMWATER BUDGET. Director to refer to Version 1 of the proposed budget. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

J. BID RECOMMENDATION AND STATEMENT OF FACT – CONTRACT #23S-420-1704. – SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROAD SALT & SOLAR SALT). Director to refer to Bid Recommendation prepared by Assistant Highway Superintendent Elizabeth Gildae. **BOARD APPROVAL & VOTE REQUIRED.**

K. ROSEMARY/LONGFELLOW WELL REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION. Director to provide update on status of potential project. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

L. STATEMENT OF FACT ACTIVITY REPORT. Director to refer to listing of purchases. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

M. MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY (MWRA) - METROPOLITAN WATER TUNNEL PROGRAM. Director to refer to draft presentation prepared by the MWRA "For discussion only". **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

N. WATER MANAGEMENT ACT REGISTRATION UPDATE. Director to request Board support of House Bill 986, to prevent the conditioning of our registration. Director to refer to House Bill No. 986, regarding An Act Relative to the Rights of Municipalities and Districts", filed by Representative Alice Peisch, as well as a letter from Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA), written in support of House Bill 986. **BOARD FEEDBACK REQUESTED.**

O. WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Director to refer to the financial statements for the months of July, August and September 2022. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**

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

Q. CORRESPONDENCE. Director to refer to correspondence from resident regarding deteriorating condition of crosswalk on Washington Street by Denton Road and request for repair in advance of future replacement. **NO BOARD ACTION REQUIRED.**