

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
December 13, 2005

Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday December 13, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Dan McIntyre and Jim Pyne, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty and Selectmen Executive Secretary Ted Kozak. Also present were town residents Mary Pratt, Ken Weismantel and Kevin Kort.

WATER TESTING

Mr. Carty reviewed the steps that the Water Department has taken to assure a safe water supply. He will develop a PowerPoint presentation for an upcoming Selectmen's Meeting that will cover the following topics:

- Summer of 2004 the water storage tanks were inspected by Water Department Employees to be proactive
- After detections in September the water storage tanks were inspected by a professional contractor
- Existing problems were fixed and preventative maintenance was done to avoid problems
- Installed a chlorination tap at West Main Street storage tank for emergencies
- Updated emergency plan
- Set up an account with Poland Springs for emergency bottled water

- Sought better emergency notification procedures – Reverse 911 not currently available in town and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency would have to give approval to have a crawl screen on local cable. Currently use printed media, local radio, internet and road side message boards
- Increased chlorine from Ashland pump station and at town wells
- Changed chlorine pumping to eliminate air-bound and inoperative metering pumps
- Flush off-line wells frequently
- Conducted intermittent tests
- Employees attended water sampling class
- Switched chemical companies after hearing of sanitary issues
- Initiated protocol for water chemical handling
- Changed to larger chemical storage tank to avoid handling and transfer contamination
- Inspected and protected any possible openings at storage tanks, pumps and chemical tanks
- For several years we have been checking in the woods around the wells for sources of possible contamination
- Had meeting with Lt. Clark of the Fire Dept. to discuss the advantages of reverse 911 access for town departments
- Had meeting with the Board of Health to discuss water quality issues
- Had discussion with Dr. Phelan of the School Department to discuss things the schools can do to be prepared in case of a water emergency

- Contacted Department of Environmental Protection about having a sanitary survey conducted. This is required every 5 years and we are almost at the 5 year limit
- Mr. Carty attended a class about adding chlorine to water systems
- Had meeting with consultants to evaluate both short and long term improvements that could be made to the water system
- Installation of new water mains on Spring Street and West Main Street should begin in the spring of 2006
- Switched to a quicker testing program. Results can be returned in 24 hours instead of 48 hours and tests have fewer false positives and include additional information

EARTH TECH WATER MAIN DESIGN

Mr. Carty advised the board that Earth Tech is finishing up the design of the new water main installation for Spring Street and West Main Street. They were hoping to have everything done for today's meeting but it is not ready yet. They will be invited to attend the next meeting to present the design.

ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Weismantel spoke about the Zoning Advisory Committee and their work related to the Water District Overlay. He said that at the time the Water District Overlay was put into place it was based more on geographic boundaries than on scientific study of where underground water flowed. Mr. Carty said the definition of a Zone 1 water protection area is a 400 foot radius from the well. The Zone 2 protection area is the area from which

water would flow toward the well during a 180 day 24 hour per day pumping situation. He said the Zone 2 area is determined during pump tests required for permitting of a new well.

The Zoning Advisory Board is meeting this evening to discuss Water Protection Zones to bring the town by-laws into compliance with the standard definitions used by the state. Mr. Sonnett, Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Gaucher are going to attend the meeting.

RECYCLING EFFORT FOR BOSTON MARATHON

Mr. Kort advised the board that the Recycling Committee would like to be able to recycle as much as possible at the start of the 2006 Boston Marathon. He said the town has about 20 covered containers on wheels that have been modified to allow only bottles and cans to be put in them. The Recycling Committee would like to have the DPW transport the containers to the common prior to marathon weekend and transport them back after the race. Mr. Gaucher said he would contact BFI and ask if they would be willing to provide recycling containers for the Runners Village at the school, and take responsibility for emptying the containers during the weekend and after the race. Mr. Kort said the Recycling Committee would have volunteers to monitor the containers during the weekend.

WATER DEPARTMENT LAND USE POLICY

Mr. Carty advised the board that a land use policy is being developed for all land under the control of the Water Department. He said the policy will specifically list what activities can and can not be conducted within the Zone 1 and Zone 2 water protection

areas. The draft copy should be complete and ready for the Water and Sewer Commissioners to review in the near future.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Gaucher briefly reviewed the snow operations of last Friday. He said we had an unusually large amount of snow in a very short time and everyone did a good job of dealing with the conditions, even though there were some traffic delays during the afternoon. Mr. Sonnett asked if anything could be done to improve the conditions of the hills on Cedar Street, East Main Street and West Main Street during periods of heavy snow. Mr. Gaucher said we currently have 2 trucks with liquid deicer and will be adding that capability to 2 additional trucks during this budget cycle. Mr. Gaucher also explained that during periods of extremely heavy snowfall, like we had Friday afternoon, it is difficult to keep ahead of conditions on the hills.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the culvert replacement on Front Street is almost complete. He explained that large sand bags were used to stop the flow of water and pumps were used to by-pass the area while the old pipe was removed and new concrete pipe was installed. He said clean up of the area is being done and temporary paving is in place with the finish paving over the pipe scheduled for the spring.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the North Mill Street bridge repair is almost complete. He said the work to upgrade the footings of the bridge has been completed and

the new decking has been installed. The timbers used on the deck were donated to the town by Mass Highway and there was about a \$5,000 savings as a result.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the road and drainage improvements on Hearthstone Road are complete for the winter. He said the contractor was not able to improve the swale area before winter, but the road drainage is complete with finish paving scheduled for spring.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the retaining walls at the Granite Street drain have been shored up for the winter and that additional work will be done in the spring. Fourth Road is closed for the winter and repairs that are needed will be done in the spring also.

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that he has received a letter from the attorney representing Mr. Morrison regarding work that was done by Mr. Morrison on Piazza Lane. The attorney has requested a copy of all requests for determination that the DPW has filed with the Conservation Commission for work on dirt and non-accepted roads since 1995.

ELECTRIC SERVICE SAVINGS

Mr. Kozak advised the board that he has received information that for high use electric accounts the town might be able to save considerable money. He said that the Water/Sewer Department was the only one with high usage that might benefit from changing electric service. He estimated that the savings could be as much as \$25,000 per

year. Mr. Gaucher said he would contact the supplier who provided the information and obtain additional information.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 29, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. McIntyre and seconded by Mr. Pyne. The vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday January 4, 2006 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss