



LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT WARRANT
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Regular Board Meeting
7:00 pm October 12, 2021

Date, time, place: The regular meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday October 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Commissioners Anders Youngren, Joseph Maney, Superintendent John Scenna, Treasurer Shannan Cuddy and Clerk of the Board Christine Smallenberger

Absent: Commissioner Jack Adelson

Also attending: Patricia Campbell

Additional attachments: Agenda, incorporated into the minutes hereto.

Next Regular Meeting: October 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Adjourn: 7:43 PM

The meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

1. Superintendent's Update

- a. **Tank Rehabilitation Project:** Superintendent Scenna presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board to update the board on recent projects: Oakridge Terrace, Summer Street Water Main Leak and Tank Rehab Work (attached to the minutes). Last week the Special District Meeting voted to extend our pipeline down to a property on Oakridge. Pictures show the water main is now capped at the end of the pipe so in the future, we can take the cap off to extend the pipe towards Pondview. The system was pressure tested and sampled according to AWIA standards, our standards and are on file and with the board of health as requested. The contractor will install 120 linear feet of water main. The water main didn't go up Birch Road and the contractor agreed to install the main up to Birch Road at no additional cost to create a loop for Driftwood, Birch, Shady Nook, Walsh and Oakridge. The cost would have been about \$6,000-7,000 if we had to pay Pyburn to install. The contractor was great to work with and there

were no issues; his operator is a former utility worker (GTA) with extensive experience.

Summer street water main leak: Summer Street School was canceled due to the water break. The system was shut down at 4:30 in the morning. It wasn't called in as a water main break because the water came up under the curb and was flowing into the golf course. We lost about 3,000 gallons of water per minute until we found the leak. Once the leak was located, we found the valves, shut it down and drained the pipe. We lost approximately 15 and a half feet in tank height at Knoll Road within an hour and a half. We had the break isolated by 5:30 am. We knew this was a longitudinal crack because we lost a ton of water. We found a closed valve at Westover that was leaking. No one knew this valve was there; this is a hydraulic issue. We exercised the valve and opened it. When we exercised the valve, it broke. Both will be patched temporary at the same time and will occur prior to Halloween and will be infrared in the spring. DPW Director Tomasz said that is acceptable. The crack was about 78 inches long. We can assume by looking at the call log locations, this is where the leak occurred with the flow reversal that may have put a strain on the pipe. We held a height of 74 in the tank and were back to 84 by 7:00 am. The air in the system usually goes to Wing Road but because it was out of service, it went to the next highest point which was the Grey Lane and Durham Drive areas. We opened the highest hydrant in this area and then a ton of air came out followed by filthy water. The next morning the area was clean. The break messed up the system.

We closed Wing Road from the distribution system. While draining, we power washed the outside. The power washing created some spalling. The change order was to paint the 4 lower rings of the tank, which is all we could afford. The chipping issue went away as you got higher. Humidity issues on the bottom caused the corrosion. Pictures of the inside and the video showed the sludge at the bottom of the tank. There is a manifest on the sludge and how it is to be disposed. Pictures are shown of the inside of the tank after the pressure wash. The cleaning clearly worked. We didn't exceed the \$10,000 in spot repairs. We cleaned the line to the tank and vacuumed once more before we turned the tank on this morning to start filling. The DEP required us to install a sample port, per last year's sanitary survey, that is housed on the tank with 2 holes drilled and welded onto the tank so we can sample the water. Previously, we sampled through an underground port which was an unsafe location. We will place a heater and electricity at the box. The DEP will approve the change and remove this from the sanitary survey. We are transitioning to the Knoll Road

tank. Wing Road is being filled and ran all day yesterday and today. The project team wants to push it a little harder, but we don't want to disturb the system. We may disturb the system going from 1 tank to the other. It is being refilled at 150 gpm. There is an air relief valve that needs preventative maintenance. Weston & Sampson came out today and showed us how to manipulate it. We will fill the tank and test and operate it at a higher height until Knoll Road comes back into service and will re-establish the differential. The public safety equipment was transferred to a trailer at Knoll Road. Verizon is not responding to any emails or phone calls. The OSHA inquiry has been closed and we are awaiting results. We had a FOIA regarding the project that we believe to be associated with Boston Clearwater. The request is lengthy and the Lynnfield DPW got a similar request. If the individual requesting the documents sends the money, we will have to send the records. Through the Lynnfield DPW contract, we enlisted Mayer Tree service to cut the brush back at the well fields and overgrowth from the woods.

b. PFAS Program: We got the first round of results. PFAS tests for 6 chemicals. It takes the result from all 6 chemicals and adds them. Station 2 had a result of 22. The critical numbers in Massachusetts are 10 and 20. If you get over 10 you continue to test quarterly and put the information in the annual consumer confidence report. If you test over 20, you are over the mcl, which is the action limit, and you have to mail out the results to everyone in the district. Station 2 tested at 22, which is 2 parts per trillion (ppt) over the limit, station 1 was at 26-27, Phillips Road, Station 3 at 4 (3.8), and Glen Drive at 11. We have to do another round, which we did this past Friday for the confirmatory samples. The average of Round 1 and 2 results is what the DEP will act on. The results were a little telling. The PFOS (5th chemical on the list) was high in every result. CDM has an engineer that stated that type of PFAS is found in Teflon tape or pipe fitting material and could be an indication of an issue with fittings in the station themselves. Operator Deshaies will put another sample port closer to the water source and go through fewer fittings. If station 1 comes in high, we will shut it down; we only use it in the summer anyways. The bigger concern is station 2, the workhorse. If we can drop station 2 below 22, we don't have to notify everybody. One part per trillion is a single drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools. We will see what results the confirmatory samples bring. The flow chart shows us the next steps we need to take. Superintendent Scenna will work with CDM on the next letter that will need to go out to residents. Station 1 will not drop below 20. The EPA doesn't have a federal standard and CDM will speak to this the next time they attend a board meeting. Most of New England set the standard

to 70 but are dropping the standard since Massachusetts dropped their standard to 20. All water utilities are testing now but are testing differently.

Water Management Act: we submitted a grant application that is detailed in the attached executive summary containing a lot of backup information. We applied for the entire cost (\$898,000 includes the contingency) of the Wakefield interconnection. The spirit of the water management act grant is to reduce stress on watersheds. The Wakefield interconnection will reduce the stress on the Ipswich River by connecting to MWRA for supplemental water and a connection that can grow in the future. Applying for the grant shouldn't be a surprise to some people on the review team. In 2017, the district together with Middleton and North Reading, completed a water management act to study the stress on the Ipswich River Watershed through a grant. The district also did a permit looking at the impacts on Ipswich River and finally the recent Task Order 5 we looked at the Lynnfield Water District and all the other options for supplemental water. There is a lot of positives in the write-up to see if we can be awarded a grant.

Lead and copper sampling: there was 1 fixture at the middle school that tested slightly above. The Bethlehem School also tested a little above. The school fixtures don't count in our average. Superintendent Scenna will meet with the director of Bethlehem, Carmelina Padovani on the results. We passed our lead and copper sampling; our results were below 15%.

Superintendent Scenna and Commissioner Adelson are meeting with the planning board regarding Willis Way for walking trails, passage to the Ipswich River and ways to improve the area with or without the Richardson parcel of land. Bostik is decommissioning their dam and we will learn more tomorrow at the meeting.

At the end of the month, Superintendent Scenna is applying to the American Recovery Act funds that the town received for the Wakefield interconnection and booster station at the Grant and extending the water line up Main Street to Friendship Lane. Lynnfield's town administrator included Superintendent Scenna in the selection committee as water is 1 of the 5 key areas these funds are supposed to be used. Technically, if you follow the letter of the law, water projects should rank high after the town recovers all their funds. The understanding is the town approach will replace lost revenue from last year. All department heads are putting in their applications. They will use funds to purchase the Richardson parcel as a stormwater quality, which is acceptable. We may get a piece for the Wakefield connection. The committee for the America First Recovery Act consists of Chief Davis,

Julie McCarthy, Town Administrator Dolan and Superintendent Scenna. The committee will vote to make recommendations to the select board.

2. Update on Capital Improvement Plan

- a. **Borings & Survey @ Interconnect.** Wakefield completed their drill borings and completed the survey and have a little more to do at Bay State Road.
- b. **Update on Capital Improvement Plan.** We are set for a board meeting on November 8th at the Merritt Center for a CDM update presentation. John Guilfoil will do a writeup on where we stand and a press release to invite people to the meeting on November 8th. We took some initial steps at Glen Drive with the type of design we are going through, looking at site to put the addition, where putting drainage area, looking at contours, how to access it and how to get chemicals to it. We had a lengthy meeting that resulted in new changes to the layout. CDM had too much chemical storage in the plans. We go through the sketches every 2 weeks. We will continue this process until we go out to bid. The operators have a concern regarding addressing PFAS in the future and would it require a 24/7 manned operation. CDM will confirm if PFAS triggers this. The design does include chambers for PFAS. The next step is to bring the sample trailer out to test the green sand filter. We intend to post this as a video on the website showing how green sand cleans the water.

3. Continued Business

- a. **Charter Review Committee Kickoff:** Charter review committee: we are looking at switching the treasurer's term from a 1-year term to a 3-year term. We are also looking at changing the district clerk to become 3-year term but not at same cycle where you could lose both in the same year. We looked at eligibility criteria as currently you must live in the district and be a registered voter. We looked at making this as other elected positions where you would pull papers and get voter support. We are also looking to create a system for absentee ballots as we don't have a process currently. We want to make sure the language is clear in the case of a vacancy. We looked at moving the annual meeting date but decided to leave it. the committee will meet again in 2 weeks and hope to discuss in more detail with the board at the 2nd meeting in November. If we agree, we will create a memo for KP LAW to review and for guidance on to conduct a Special District Meeting in February for all these proposed changes to go into effect at the April Annual District Meeting.

Superintendent Scenna spoke with Dave Fox from Raftelis on cubic foot meters. Most of the customers are average users. Mr. Fox thinks the total credit is between \$8,000

to \$10,000 over the 9 accounts. We are off by about 25%. Mr. Fox created a calculator that we can use in the future if needed. By our next meeting, we will know all the accounts.

We had a request for LIFE to hold their rate at Tier 1 and only charge a service fee of \$25 per meter. If we hold at Tier 1, we are looking at approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000 in revenue loss. Superintendent Scenna's recommendation is staying the course. They are still paying less than a single house when you divide the fixed charge. Superintendent Scenna recommends keeping the tier payments status quo and if any, drop the fixed charge from \$50 to \$25. Chairman Maney wants to remain status quo as they are still being subsidized. Superintendent Scenna will write a letter to LIFE informing there will be no change to their billing structure at this time and they are open to participate in the next rate setting meeting where there is public participation.

Any account prior to the September bill that owes over \$500 will receive a lien warning letter. These accounts will have about month to make payment prior to sending the final lien list to the town.

Estimated accounts: we have sent letters to people not responding for appointments and have billed the customers the \$50 non-reading fee. Superintendent Scenna will send the list to the commissioners to see if they can assist with getting an appointment.

- b. **FY21 Retained earnings:** will be certified at the end of October/early November.
- c. **Tax levy** will happen in November. We will have a meeting in October to talk about the loose ends.

5. Other Board Items:

a: Approve the meeting minutes

Motion: a motion was made to approve the meeting minutes as presented electronically to include the September 27, 2021 Special District Meeting and the board meeting minutes from September 13, 2021 and September 27, 2021.

Seconded: the motion was seconded, and the motion was passed with Commissioner Youngren and Commissioner Maney saying aye by a unanimous vote.

b: Approve A/P and Payroll: commissioners approved.

c. **Abatelements:** The committee met and made the following recommendations. Approve 515 Summer Street for an abatement due a leak; the homeowner had provided all paperwork to the committee's satisfaction. 15 Hart Road was denied an abatement as the committee wasn't comfortable with the insurance claim as well as being outside the 30-day window for an abatement. 3 Baldwin was also denied as it appears they were looking to eliminate the fixed charge and they were also outside the 30-day window to abate the late charges. The committee voted to hold as is for 6 Melody Lane as we weren't far off from our previous estimation.

d. **Any other items:** Mrs. Campbell asked about the water running from Summer Street. We found a gate valve buried under the ground and will be taken care of next week. The contractor will complete the repair on the weekend, so it doesn't disturb the school. Mrs. Campbell asked how about the PFAS testing for the MWRA and Wakefield Crystal Lake and how their testing results will be. MWRA results are probably on their website.

e. **Executive Session for legal and personnel purposes if required**

A motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:43 pm. and go into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,