

**Scituate Water Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 29, 2018**

Attending:

John Boehmke
Shirley Young
Becky Malamut
Deb Smith-Mooney
Martha Cook

Guests:

Joanne Wyckoff
Marty Gall

Meeting called to order at 7:25

Water System Update

Sean Anderson, Water Dept. Head called in at 7:27 with Water System Updates

The Reservoir is 7 ½" over 'full'. Usage is at 1.255 mgd (average)

OOB treatment plant needs emergency repair on sedimentation basins & replacing trac-vac, seals, etc. That plant has to be off-line to replace under-drains, plates, media, etc. and replace chemical tanks. This can't be ignored. It is pragmatic to do all this at one time. We need to treat the Manganese of wells 17A and 18B. Once fixed, they should be adequate for demand. Others may be shut off or on as needed. Preference is to treat both. A permanent filter for 18B went out to two different companies. New England Water Solutions will do engineering services, plumbing, etc. Hopefully, they will be done in December. There is no sewer at 18B, so the backwash waste water will be removed via a tank & truck. This process will help seasonal use of these wells by making their output 'cleaner.'

17A well filter will be custom....

Sean and Kevin C met today to discuss the wells. Jim B (T A) has helped procure emergency funding. 3 Quotes are needed... \$50,000 quote has been received. Contract should be signed soon. A GC is needed to oversee work on sediment basins, etc. Not hired yet, no response to requests.

There has been a violation. The plant had failures... a problem with turbidity. This is known as a Tier 2 so public notification is necessary, which entails a mailing. Best practices will be employed to reach out to everyone in town. A meter measures the light reflection in water, which could be bacteria, virus, or harmless. The water quality has been tested; all chem tests show it is safe. Our level of infraction was

very mild. Proper procedures were followed, EPA notified right away, etc. The plan is to send out as much info as possible to explain what it all means, the test results, etc. The primary cause has been isolated and we are no longer in violation. There are many reasons it could happen, but further resolutions will be achieved when the work is done at the plant.

Cost estimates are \$6-8 M for 17A for the green sand filter. Because markets are variable now the price is not definite yet. Expected cost for 18B is about \$132,000 for the treatment vessels, removal of backwash water, etc. Full removal of Mg is expected.

In Dec., Jan., and Feb. the temporary solution will proceed for about \$200,000. This cost is based on many factors, including gallons per minute. The building size also changes the price... one needs a whole new building to house the filter, the other already has a small building that can house the equipment.

The DEP is allowing us to save \$ on a pilot study since we've already done one nearby. This saves steps on doing 18B because it was done on 17A. Called a 'Pilot study in Place' The backwash water vessels will be removed every few days, via a 'frag' tank (correct?) a large steel container to take away the 10,000 gallons. A heated garage is being built ... tank will be kept there. A hauler will be hired to take the water back to our own waste water treatment plant where they can remove the Mg.

During recent ice-pigging 4 out of 6 went into our own system for cleaning. The concentration of Mg in water that came from ice pigging was higher than what would come out of the wells. The sewer plant handled that and will plan ahead for cleaning this well water. The final product is a 'cake' of Mg that is hauled away to a landfill. Sean explained ways different facilities handle this... new vs older technologies.

These 2 wells could bring 500,000 gal per day more into our system once fixed up. This would help cover winter rate of daily use to allow plant to go offline for repair. Sean shared information on Green Sand Plus filter life span, effectiveness at removal of Mg & iron, etc. Everyone agrees that the public will want updates to explain everything going on in the water department including the violation, the ban still being in effect, these repairs, etc. A public notice will go out soon, once accurate info is confirmed.

Sean answered questions about ice pigging. The dept feels it was very successful and that they learned from the experience things to make it better next time. Dept will try to get feedback from residents effected to see if they felt it was helpful. A neighborhood with a chronic discolored water issue should see significant improvement. Test results are due back that measure the mass of Mg removed and any abnormalities. Future goals are to try ice pigging on newer lines as well to see if

they are still clean. More funds will be needed to continue ice pigging in other areas determined to need improvement that flushing can't do.

Sean also answered questions about home service lines made from various materials. Town is not responsible for private lines, but has tried to help when possible to clear clogs.

Meeting coming up about the Dolan Well. Process is moving forward with tests to see availability. Some questions about location and depth of wells to maximize water draw while minimizing Mg content. More info requested on this. Sometimes deeper isn't better. We know other towns are having the same troubles. DEP regulations are being carefully followed to protect health of residents. Some studies show concern for nursing mothers and babies. Water workers are actually more at risk from pipes than a citizen is. We seek more up to date info to share with the public.

We discussed likely questions and answers to share accurate info with town. For example, brown water complaints are down somewhat despite pigging and a recent main break. New reporting techniques are being tracked, but sometimes a complaint is double counted due to the multiple ways to respond. The FAQ are to help educate citizens about current situations. Sean signed off.

A letter was composed to send to the BOS urging them to read and consider the correspondence from Jeff Rosen and Steve Pritchard. John B made a motion submit the letter, seconded by Becky M, all in favor.

Discussed property owned by R. Green off OOB. We discussed merits of the property, and the time and resources needed to recommend purchasing this property, either outright or through CPC process. Becky moved to take this off our agenda. Shirley seconded. All in favor (John B left prior to the vote)

There will be a meeting in January about the reservoir project. Data will be shared. Property on 3A that is for sale is being shown. An interested party asked how project would change it.

Water Offset Update

We will get a membership in AWE. They will have info to help set a mitigation fee. Becky and Sean need to meet to discuss. New connection fee has been passed, with proceeds going to infrastructure.

New Initiatives

Goals; 1) signage for reservoir prohibiting boating need to go up by spring

2) An open house at the Water department, but not necessarily May 4.

3) Notices to go out to water customers such as condo owners and apartment residents who don't get the actual water bill.

4) Info about rain water capture to go to school department and to BOS in light of recent article with inaccurate information in the paper regarding using water from a fire hydrant for Cushing school field.

5) Previously written letter for all other town committees to go out

Open discussion

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov 27 at 7:15pm

Approve Minutes

Becky moved to approve August 2018 Meeting minutes. Shirley seconded, Deb abstained, all in favor.

Becky moved to approve September 2018 meeting minutes after amending minutes to change mis-spelling of Tighe. Deb seconded, Martha abstained, all in favor

Recent Correspondence

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:25