

Town of Wilmington
Water & Sewer Commission
September 17, 2020 Meeting

The Water and Sewer Commission met via ZOOM on September 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM. Roll Call: Present were Chairman Joseph Balliro, Commissioner George Allan, Commissioner Robert LaVita, Utility & Business Manager Joseph Lobao, and Recording Secretary Diane Forest.

ZOOM Meeting

Read Into Record by Chairman Joseph Balliro: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c 30A, section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, the meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission will be conducted via remote participation. Members of the public who wish to watch and listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: WCTV. **No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted**, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Members of the public who wish to listen to this meeting while in progress may also do so via telephone by dialing **(312) 626-6799** and entering meeting ID 819 4256 2421 then press # and press # again at the next voice prompt.

Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment, by following the steps previously noted then press *9 on their telephone keypad. This will notify the meeting host that the caller wishes to speak. All callers using this feature will be placed in queue in the order they entered the prompt. In the event that despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide real-time access, we will post a record of this meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able.

Approval of Minutes – August 26, 2020 – ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2020.

Billing Adjustments & Corrections – There were none

Monthly Reports

The July 2020 monthly report was presented to and reviewed by the Commission members.

Drought Conditions

Mr. Lobao explained that we are in the midst of a drought. The Town had received notification from the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs back on August 13th that they issued a level 2 drought declaration. There are several drought levels; 0 – Normal, 1 – Mild, 2 – Significant, this is where we are, 3 – Critical, 4 – Emergency. We received a follow up letter on September 4th stating that the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs maintain the Level 2 Drought Declaration throughout the entire Commonwealth. Mr. Lobao stated that it is important for all nonessential outdoor water use to be limited, as it is the most effective way to limit the impact that the drought will have on the water supplies, and the environment and ensure an adequate supply for fire protection. Our municipal wells have seen a decrease in productivity. The MWRA's water source, the Quabbin Reservoir, is 93% full and is considered a normal operational range and are not concerned with their capability of supply member communities with water throughout the State.

Annual Water Main Flushing

The annual water main flushing, which was postponed this spring, began on September 9th. Flushing the water mains aids in removing sediments that collect in the pipeline resulting in improved water quality. Unfortunately, this work may temporarily cause some discolored water but should become clear after running your cold water for a few minutes. The water will remain safe to drink during this program.

Public Comment Period – There were no requests for public comment.

Other Business

- **Olin/EPA Update**

Mr. Lobao informed the Commission that The Environmental Protection Agency will hold a virtual public hearing on September 22, 2020 at 7:00PM relative to the clean-up of the Olin Superfund Site. The EPA has extended the public comment period to October 26, 2020. The proposed plan is to begin the cleanup of the aquifer by constructing a groundwater treatment and extraction systems. This is an interim measure specifically about groundwater while the EPA continues to study and assess the information, they receive on follow-up testing. To review the plan and presentation, submit comments or get further information, one can go to www.epa.gov/superfund/olin. This will be available on the Town's website as well.

- **Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Update**

I/I Analysis – Two areas have been identified as having some deficiencies, one being in the Woburn Street/Industrial Way area and the other being off of Main Street near Wisser Street, behind Rocco's. Mr. Lobao stated that the contract has been signed and a preconstruction meeting has taken place. The Town is now waiting for a start date and schedule. Approximately \$856,000 was allotted in the budget. Insituform was the low bidder coming in at \$622,085.

- **George Allan Nassau Ave WST**

Commissioner Allan asked for an update on the demolition of the old Nassau Avenue WST. Mr. Lobao stated that it is budgeted for this fiscal year. The demolition is contingent on when all 3 of the telecom providers can move their equipment from the old tank to the new tank. There has been no movement as of yet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 15, 2020 via ZOOM.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn carries at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane Forest, Recording Secretary