

Town of Wilmington
Water & Sewer Commission
October 15, 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 833 8204 1076 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 – September 17, 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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2020.

Billing Adjustments & Corrections – There were none

Monthly Reports

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

Drought Conditions

Mr. Lobao informed the Commission that on October 9th the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs notified the Town that we are still in a level 2 drought, which is considered significant. Mr. Lobao shared a map of the State indicating what level each area is in. The southern areas are in level 3 which is considered critical. Mr. Lobao explained that our water conservation methods are always in place 52 weeks out of the year.

Mr. Lobao informed the Commission that on October 5, 2020, we requested from the MWRA that we use more than 219 million gallons as allotted in our permit. On October 7, 2020 we received a response from the Chief Operating Officer allowing us to take what we need going forward until the end of the year. This approval will expire on December 31, 2020, at which time we will begin a new calendar year.

Indoor Water Conservation Pamphlets

The MWRA provides water conservation pamphlets for member municipalities for distribution to their residents. An indoor water conservation pamphlet will be included as an insert with the November water bills. In the spring, we will insert an outdoor water conservation pamphlet.

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Update

Mr. Lobao explained to the Commission that we are in the construction phase of the I/I Sewer Rehabilitation Project. They will be working in the Industrial Way and Woburn Street area and in the area of Rocco's on Main Street. They will be using cameras to televise the lines to catch anything they may have missed the first time around, cleaning sewer and installing 12,000' of liner, rehabilitating approximately 100 sewer connections, and addressing some lateral connection liner issues and there are about 40 manholes that need some attention. Approximately \$856,000 was allotted in the budget with assistance from the MWRA I/I Financial Assistance Program. Insituform was the low bidder coming in at \$622,085. The unspent money will be able to be used on our next I/I project.

Annual Water Main Flushing

The annual water main flushing, which was postponed this spring, began on September 9th and is ongoing. It should be completed by the next meeting. There have been minimal complaints of discolored water or low pressure. Flushing the water mains aids in removing sediments that collect in the pipeline resulting in improved water quality.

Other Business

- **Lowell Street Sewer Pump Station**

The Lowell Street sewer pump station is active and does collect municipal sewerage. The Town has an agreement with the developer that once the station is officially completed and the punch list items are done, the Commission will need to vote to accept the pump station and take it over.

- **Nassau Ave WST**

T-Mobile has begun to remove their equipment from the old tank and installing it onto the new tank. At&T and Verizon will follow suit.

- **Ballardvale WST**

The Ballardvale WST was recently rehabilitated. Mr. Lobao shared a before and after photo of the exterior paint job and also an overhead view of the tank.

- **Commissioner Allan - Video Clip of Sewer Cleaning**

Commissioner Allan suggested that at a future meeting we share a short clip of some video footage of the interior of the sewer cleaning. Mr. Lobao stated that he could arrange the request.

- **Commissioner Allan – Open Meeting Law**

The Board of Selectmen are considering adopting a revision to the Open Law which would allow meetings to be held with members attending via teleconference or via the use of forums such as ZOOM. Adopting this revision would extend the allowance of remote participation post pandemic or emergency.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 19, 2020 via ZOOM.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn carries at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane Forest, Recording Secretary