

*Town of Wilmington*  
*Water & Sewer Commission*  
*October 21, 2021 Meeting*

The Water and Sewer Commission met on October 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Present were Chairman George Allan, Commissioner Robert LaVita, Utility & Business Manager Joseph Lobao, and Recording Secretary Diane Forest.

**Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2021** – Tabled

**Billing Adjustments & Corrections** - There were none.

**Other Business - PFAS**

**PFAS** – PFAS is a chemical associated with non-stick materials, fire foam, Teflon etc. There is a new standard that DEP has put into place beginning in October of 2020. Wilmington began testing for PFAS in April of 2021. The EPA health advisory level is 70 parts per trillion, whereas the Mass DEP has instituted a level of 20 parts per trillion as an MCL of a combined sum of 6 out of the 1000's of PFAS chemicals. On October 6, 2021, one sample from the Sargent Water Treatment Plant came back with a level of 20.6 ppt. As a precautionary measure MassDEP recommends consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), not consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ppt. The Town has created a proactive plan of action to reduce the amount of PFAS in the drinking water as quickly as possible and has taken the following actions since receiving the sample result:

- Decreased the amount of water being distributed to the public from the Sargent WTP by shutting off 1 of the 3 wells sending water to this plant, the one with the highest PFAS levels. This will decrease the load on the carbon bed in the filters, which will reduce PFAS. We believe this step alone will reduce PFAS6 levels below the 20ppt drinking water standard.
- A new water sample was taken after shutting off 1 well. We expect laboratory results on October 25 and will place that information on our website.
- Increased the amount of water being taken from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which has no PFAS6 detections. This will make up for the water loss from the deactivated well.
- Initiated the process of replacing the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) at the Sargent Water Treatment Plant. GAC is a primary treatment method for PFAS removal. We have been successful with contracting with a GAC vendor and they are expected on-site October 26th. That means the Sargent WTP will go offline at that time and stay off for approximately 2 weeks while the GAC is replaced. Other maintenances will be performed during the down time. PFAS in the water distribution system is expected to be between non-detect and 5ppt with the one of the contributing sources offline.
- Created a Town of Wilmington PFAS Information Page.
- An informational flyer will be mailed to each address on our distribution system with the required DEP language, information in this memo and updates as they materialize.
- Continue our monthly PFAS6 sampling protocols at both WTPs.

- Engaged with MassDEP toward fulfilling all regulatory obligations.

It was reiterated that the Town is not in violation as of right now. The Town of Wilmington is very fortunate because both plants use carbon filters. In addition, we have a permanent interconnection with the MWRA. DPW Director Michael Woods and Utility and Business Manager, Joseph Lobao will be present the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss PFAS and answer any questions.

848 Woburn Street – Industrial Way Booster Station Property – The Commission had previously taken a vote in favor of deeming the old Industrial Way Booster Station property located at 848 Woburn Street as surplus property. Considering the current PFAS situation, there has been discussion to hold off on that decision in case we needed the parcel for future use, mainly to construct a pump station to provide more MWRA water to the Town. The Commission members agreed that it would be in the best interest of the Town to keep the parcel of land located at 848 Woburn Street for the time being.

### **Monthly Report**

The September 2021 monthly report was submitted to the Commission for review.

### **Main Street Plaza Sewer Pump Station – Bid Opening**

This sewer capital outlay project consisted of moving the underground program panel to an above ground location. The amount budgeted was \$40,000, and the low bid came in as \$55,000. It is not imperative that this project take place at this time. It has been decided to reject the current bids and revisit it in the future.

### **Indoor Water Conservation Pamphlets**

Indoor water conservation pamphlets are provided to the Town free of charge by the MWRA. These will be included in the November 1, 2021 water bills. There is also an electronic version available on the Town's website.

### **Hydrant Winterization**

Water Department employees have begun winterizing the fire hydrants. This endeavor consists of checking all 1,300+ fire hydrants to make sure they are operable, drained of any standing water and hydrant flags are installed as necessary.

### **Leak Detection Update**

Prowler has been in Town performing leak detection since the end of September. They are just about finished and there have been no major leaks detected.

### **AT&T Antennae Transfer – Nassau Avenue WST**

Verizon has completed their transfer of equipment. AT&T is currently moving their equipment. Once they are complete and the Town has moved their antenna equipment, the process for demolishing the old tank can begin.

### **FY2023 Budget**

Mr. Lobao informed the Commission that we have begun the capital outlay planning portion of the budget for FY2023. Requests for these items, which are generally the larger ticket items over

\$20,000, will be submitted to the Town Manager and Finance Director in November. The operating budget will be submitted in December, with presentations to the Finance Committee happening in February. The Commission will be kept informed.

**Public Comment Period** - No public comments

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 18, 2021.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Forest", is written over a horizontal line.

Diane Forest, Recording Secretary

