

*Town of Wilmington*  
*Water & Sewer Commission*  
*June 18, 2020 Meeting*

The Water and Sewer Commission met via ZOOM on June 18, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 81788162468 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 – May 21, 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 MAY 21, 2020.

**Billing Adjustments & Corrections** – There were none

**Monthly Reports**

The May 2020 monthly report was presented to and reviewed by the Commission members. There was a brief discussion relative to the water treatment plants shutting down one day per week due to Covid19 which has slightly driven up the amount of water purchased from the MWRA in comparison to last year. The Town is permitted to purchase up to 219,000,000 gallons of water from the MWRA per year.

**Vote to Support FY2021 Budget**

The FY2021 Water & Sewer Budgets were presented to the Commission. The FY2021 Budget Summary was presented to the Finance Committee for review. Joseph Lobao, Utility & Business Manager gave an overview of the documents presented and an explanation of the MWRA Assessment as well as the Furnishing & Equipment items. Commissioner Allan requested an explanation of how the Water Department pays for all the equipment & services are paid for. Mr.

Lobao explained that the Water Department runs on a Special Revenue Account. Revenue comes in by way of water bills which are calculated by rates set forth by the Commission. This revenue is used to pay for the various expenses and to satisfy the budget. In addition, the MWRA offers low interest rate loans for various projects, which the Town usually takes advantage of for large projects such as water main replacements. The budget consists of an Operations layer for the day to day expenses and a Capital Outlay layer for larger projects, such as water storage tank replacement, well field maintenance etc. ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SUPPORT THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 WATER AND SEWER BUDGETS.

There being no further discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMISSIONER LAVITA – YES  
COMMISSIONER ALLAN – YES  
CHAIRMAN BALLIRO – YES

#### **Nassau Avenue Tank – Lease for Communication Equipment**

Mr. Lobao gave a follow up to the W&S Commission relative to the three Nassau Avenue Telecommunication Lease Agreements. One of the three leases (AT&T) is set to expire and proposals for the new telecommunication lease agreement were opened on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Town is seeking a ten (10) year agreement with two (2) five (5) year extensions. AT&T is the only bidder and the proposal is currently being evaluated by the Town. Due to the length of the contract, Town Counsel has informed us that Town Meeting approval is required. This is Article 53 on the Warrant for Town Meeting which will take place on June 27, 2020

#### **Ballardvale Street WST Rehabilitation – Update**

DN Tanks out of Wakefield is working on the rehabilitation of the Ballardvale WST. It is a 3-million-gallon water storage tank built in the late 1980's. This project included new exterior coating on the tank, hatch work and safety measures. They are in the final stages and should be completed by the end of next week. They have completed pressure washing and cleaning the walls & dome. They have formed, reinforced and poured both hatches on the roof, installed a dome safety cable, replaced the handrail. They are 70% completed with the exterior painting and when finished, will then add an anti-graffiti coating.

#### **MassDEP Sanitary Survey**

The Department of Environmental Protection periodically comes in every 3 to 4 years to perform a comprehensive audit of the Water Department. They review everything from water treatment plants & processes, water distribution processes, personnel procedures, emergency response plan, required safety measures, financial records etc. Mr. Lobao proudly informed the Commission that Wilmington did not have any violations or deficiencies.

#### **Senior Citizen Hydrant Painting Program**

The annual fire painting program is underway. The Town offers an annual Senior Citizen Tax Reduction program whereas senior citizens are offered the opportunity to work for the Town painting fire hydrants. They work 80 hours and then receive a \$1,000 real estate tax credit. Any interested applicants can reach out to Town Managers Office for an application.

#### **2019 Consumer Confident Report (CCR)**

The 2019 Consumer Confidence Report will be in the mail prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. If residents do not receive one in the mail, they can call the Town at 978-658-4711 and we will be happy to send one out. The CCR will also be available on the Towns Website [www.wilmingtonma.gov](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov).

**Other Business**

George Allan inquired about a bid opening to take place on July 15<sup>th</sup> for sewer rehabilitation. The project is being financed by the MWRA through the I/I Financial Assistance Program. We have already used Phase 1-8 and are now using Phase 9 & 10 now. Consultants have worked in Town previous to the current phases to identify any problem areas. The current bid is for the construction phase to address the problem areas identified.

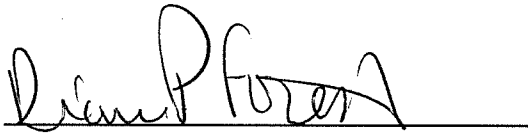
**Public Comment Period** – There were no requests for public comment.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on July 16, 2020.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn carries at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane P. Forest", is written over a horizontal line.

Diane Forest, Recording Secretary

