

**Board of Commissioners
Public Session
Minutes
August 15, 2016
(approved September 19, 2016)**

Present: L. Woods, G. Keller, T. Pellegrino, J. Comer, J. Balcom (arrived at end of item #2), Superintendent R. Miner

Financial Review – Natalie Couture

N. Couture noted that this is the first time that the auditors have come to the District so early. The auditors will be in next week. N. Couture noted that she thinks that the District had a surplus of about \$400,000 during the last fiscal year. She noted that there are no surprises expected in the audit.

L. Woods questioned the revenues for the first 2 months of the current fiscal year. N. Couture noted that these revenues look the same as in the past.

Board of Commissioners to approve minutes from the July 18, 2016 Public and Non-Public sessions.

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Comer to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2016 Public and Non-Public sessions with four corrections. The motion passed 3-0-1 with J. Comer abstaining.

Board of Commissioners to discuss perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) progress and next steps with Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations and Underwood Engineers, Inc.

R. Miner noted that the MVD had a Web Conference with St. Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPP) NHDES and CT Male on July 28th, 2016. The District has not heard anything back about the promises made by SGPP at this meeting. J. Emery noted he has not received any information so far. The information was promised by SGPP to be available on Monday. In the August 9, 2016 response from NHDES to SGPP, NHDES noted that it is not in concurrence with SGPP regarding the contamination coming from the Longa Landfill. NHDES and the District asked SGPP to pay for the design of a treatment plant for wells 4 & 5. There has been no change in the PFOA levels in the production wells. Split samples are being taken from Wells 2, 3, 7 & 8 and the treatment plant. The results from the non-modified test for PFOAs is slightly lower than the

results from the modified test. The level at well 2 is 8 ppt; well 3 is 13 ppt; wells 4 & 5 are 18/19 ppt; well 7 is 19 ppt; well 8 is 12 ppt; and the combination of wells 7 & 8 is 14 ppt. These levels are slightly above background levels.

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L. Woods noted that he left the web conference with the idea that work was to begin in 2 weeks. J. Emery noted that the meeting was on Thursday, July 28th and the plan from SGPP was to be given the following Monday, 8/1 or Tuesday 8/2 and work was to begin within 2 weeks.

K. Pratt noted that UEI has presented a scope for a 30% design to get the work started. The price for this work was sent on June 22, 2016 to SGPP.

L. Woods noted that SGPP referred to the fact that when the temporary GAC plant is no longer needed in Hoosic Falls, NY SGPP would see that this treatment is brought to Merrimack. L. Woods noted that he took this as a good sign.

J. Emery noted that he had no sense that SGPP would run away from this problem, but he noted that he is not happy that the timing promised is not being followed. L. Woods noted that EGGI is the point person to take care of the security of the MVD wells.

R. Miner questioned whether he should draft another formal letter to SGPP to state the MVD's opinion regarding the Longa Landfill. L. Woods suggested that a letter should be written stating that SGPP promised a 2 week time frame. J. Emery noted there is no doubt in SGPP's mind where the MVD stands on the Longa issue.

J. Emery noted there will be push back from SGPP regarding other treatment methods. The MVD is waiting for SGPP to get back regarding payment for work already done by the MVD.

L. Woods questioned whether UEI is continuing on the 30% treatment plant scope. K. Pratt noted that work is not continuing on this scope; UEI is continuing with the design of the booster station for the Pennichuck Water Works connection. The timeframe for completion of this connection is early December.

R. Miner questioned the time frame for temporary treatment. M. Metcalf noted that he thinks this could be done fairly quickly. He noted that it

might take a month or two if the planning is not for a permanent plant.

K. Pratt noted that the contract for UEI services has already been signed by the MVD; UEI is awaiting a signature from SGPP. (J. Balcom arrived at this time.)

3. Board of Commissioners to review options for the booster pump at the Pennichuck Water Works interconnect with Underwood Engineers, Inc.

K. Pratt noted the bids for the 30% design and PWW interconnection. Originally an interim temporary pump was suggested until wells 4 & 5 are back on-line, but this was changed to a permanent pump for long-term use. UEI recommends that the District choose Patterson Pumps at \$64,028. He noted that with the permanent pump a structure will have to be constructed. The meters will be above grade. The cost for the modifications needed for the permanent structure should cost about \$26,000. No order for the pumps and structure has been placed at this time. UEI is ready to go forward with the award of this contract. The drawings have been reviewed by PWW. Three other steps need to be taken: NHDOT approval, work order with EverSource, and town approval. This structure would be within the NHDOT right-of-way. The current vault which is in poor shape at present could be abandoned. The possible total cost for the installation of the permanent structure and the pump would be \$200,000 to \$250,000. This pump would be designed to run in manual mode. It would be designed to run at 700 gpm from PWW. The project would take 10-12 weeks from the approval of the shop drawings and 1 week for installation. The possible completion date is December 1, 2016. K. Pratt noted that he does not know if there is a fee from EverSource.

J. Balcom noted that this project was originally \$175,000 and is now \$225,000. He questioned where the extra money will come from. R. Miner noted that it is possible to get this money from the Capital Reserve Fund.

L. Woods noted that the secondary task of the MVD is to provide fire protection for the service area. K. Pratt noted that this pump station replaces wells 4 & 5. L. Woods noted that this pump station gives the MVD the ability to say confidently that it can supply fire protection to Merrimack. Attorney G. Michael noted that this is a good decision regarding the PFOA issue. T. Pellegrino questioned whether this amount of water is sufficient for fire protection for Merrimack. K. Pratt noted it is another tool in the MVD's tool box.

R. Miner noted that this is part of a 3-party contract. The District will be asking SGPP to pay for this installation.

T. Pellegrino questioned whether PWW is aware that this interconnection

is for fire protection. K. Pratt noted that PWW understands that the MVD can turn this interconnection on up to 700 gpm; this will be an MVD station under MVD control. J. Balcom questioned whether the 700 gpm is a restriction from PWW. K. Pratt noted that this figure is per an agreement between the MVD and PWW. The pump to be installed will pump to 700 gpm. J. Balcom questioned how easy

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it would be to upgrade the pump to pump additional water. K. Pratt noted that this would have an impact of an increase of about 10% in the cost. J. Balcom questioned whether it is possible that this pump will never be used. L. Woods noted that this is a possibility, but that the MVD needs to be proactive. M. Carrier noted that the rate from PWW should be negotiated. R. Miner noted that PWW is willing to explore a reduced rate with the PUC at this time.

J. Balcom asked if there are other ways to assist with this issue. It was noted that the District could dig more wells. M. Carrier questioned using an interconnection with Manchester Water Works (MWW). R. Miner noted that MWW uses a different type of treatment. J. Balcom questioned whether well #6 could be used in an emergency. R. Miner noted that this well has been cannibalized and cannot be turned on.

G. Keller noted that the Board has already decided to do this and that the cost will be an additional \$50,000 for a permanent pump station.

K. Pratt noted that concurrence is needed from the Board that UEI is going in the right direction. UEI can order the pump then look at the bids for the installation.

J. Comer noted that the cost of \$225,000 is small compared to the valuation of all of the buildings in town.

T. Mahon noted that people in town will expect that this will be pumped to allow them to water their lawns. L. Woods reiterated that this interconnection is for fire protection. He noted that this is one solution that is within the grasp of the District.

A motion was made by J. Balcom and seconded by T. Pellegrino to go forward with the recommended a \$50,000 increase with the funding for this project not to exceed \$225,000 coming from the Equipment and Facilities Capital Reserve Account. The motion passed 5-0-0.

K. Pratt noted that the pump would be ordered this week. This will start

the clock ticking on this project.

M. Carrier noted that the District is currently spending about \$1,500 per week on the PFOA issue. If the District continues to spend at this rate there will need to be a Special Meeting. All bills for this issue have been put into a special account to allow the District to keep track of these expenditures. M. Carrier noted that he is moving out of Merrimack at the end of this calendar year, so the District will need to look for a new treasurer.

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Questions from the Public

Thomas Mahon, Naticook Rd, noted that he received a call regarding the history of attempts to dissolve the MVD. This issue is on the September 9, 2016 agenda of the Town Council. There is an on-line petition to this issue. L. Woods noted that a petition to form the MVD went to Town Hall in 1955 and the District was formed. A petition was brought forward to dissolve the District, but this was voted down at the Annual Meeting.

M. Carrier questioned whether a total cost for this issue could be calculated. Attorney G. Michael noted that the cost to solve the "SGPP issue" cannot be predicted. He noted that a lawsuit may be needed, but the District is not at that point yet. M. Carrier questioned at what point does he say that the District cannot pay its bills. L. Woods noted that the Board and staff are aware that a "tsunami" is coming.

Non-Public Session:

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Balcom to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II(d) "...Acquisition, sale or lease of property", RSA 91-A:3 II(e) "...pending claims or litigation...", and RSA 91-A:3 II(a) "...dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee...". The motion passed 5-0-0 on a roll call vote.

After the Non-Public Session:

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Comer to affirm a raise of 3.5% for Superintendent R. Miner retroactive to June 18, 2016. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

6. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

7. Superintendent's Report

T-Mobile – A draft lease and sketch has been given to the District by T-Mobile. This information has been forwarded to Attorney G. Michael

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B. Moreau – Bruce is retiring after 40 years with the town. A retirement party will be held on September 22, 2016 at 3:30 PM at the American Legion.

School Board Meeting – This meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on August 15, 2016. L. Woods and R. Miner are planning on attending.

8. Questions from the Press

There were no questions from the press at this time.

Adjourn

A motion was made by J. Comer and seconded by T. Pellegrino to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Pointon, Recording Secretary

