



HARVARD WATER - SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Virtual Meeting Held in accordance with Governors Executive Order Suspending
Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Cindy Russo, Chair *Kyle Hedrick* *Richard Maiore*

Present

Cindy Russo, Chair; Kyle Hedrick, Commissioner; Rick Maiore, Commissioner; Tim Bragan, Town Administrator; Tim Kilhart, DPW Director; Tom Mahana and Mary Danielson, Tighe & Bond. Also attending: Jim Farrell, Joan Eliyesil.

1. Cindy called the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. The Minutes of October 12, 2022 were approved without correction.
3. Mary and Tom reported on the progress of the chlorine analyzer installation. RH White has substantially finished work on inside of well house. We received DEP approval our 4-log application. The chlorine analyzer still needs to be hooked up and we will have to give DEP 10 days notice prior to start up; DEP must approve start up. We should have Well #2 on line by March 1.
4. Harvard was included on Mass DEP's SRF draft funding list approving us for a \$4.8 million dollar loan for connection to Devens water system. Tom acknowledged the successful efforts of Mary and Tim K. Tom, Mary and Tim K met with Devens folks about 2 weeks ago, let them know moving forward. Present at the meeting were Jim Moore and Mark Cohen from Devens utilities. The potential location for our connection is adjacent to second hole of Red Tail golf course, on the limit of old barracks. Devens planning a substantial development in that area which may impact how we connect but Devens raised no concerns about meeting our capacity. Devens is in the process of completing 3 PFAS water treatment facilities. We will need to run 1000 feet of water main through Devens and under railroad tracks. Railroad now owned by CSX so will need to apply to CSX to cross tracks. Our new connection will include 8500 feet of water main with stubs at each developed property on the route.

The final application is due October 1. Prior to that we will need to finalize the contract with Devens and have all necessary permits, including from Con Com and the railroad. The full amount of the loan must be appropriated by June 30, and the design must be 75% complete so DEP can review from technical standpoint.

Tom provided a \$130K proposal from Tighe and Bond for initial work on the project which must be

signed for them to get started. To determine scope, will want a preliminary design of pump station and equipment and know where it will be placed. There are some siting challenges on Town property at the end of Depot Road. Other items to be determined are design criteria, and permit requirements, building design (it will include a generator, booster pumps - initial thought is skid mounted - piping, master meter, provisions for disinfection (chlorine and analyze), but won't have to meet 4-log, and electrical equipment. The system will be able to provide fire protection as well as meet drinking water needs. The current system will remain in place as an emergency back-up.

Once these details established, T&B will present a second proposal with a final design number through design and permitting, up to bidding. Bidding is an SRF includable cost.

Tim K reported that he got \$75,000 Commonwealth grant, that he applied for last summer for design work. Tom estimates that total design is 300K – 400K. Tim K filing one-stop for growth looking for construction costs this summer.

Mary reported on possible loan forgiveness from SRF program. We will get more information as the process progresses, but she said that the minimum forgiveness for us as a small community is 12%, and we could get more.

Rick moved that we support Town Meeting article to appropriate the funds for the Devens connection. The motion passed unanimously. Rich will present the article at the STM on February 13, and Tim K and Tim B will answer any questions. Rick suggested that the draft handout be strengthened to add more on why we recommend the connection to Devens and pointing out that our right to connect was bargained for with the re-use plan.

Tim B reported that there are no problems at the sewer plant but pointed out that the system is 10 years old. We are seeing some pumps fail. This may happen to homeowners with their pumps too, given the age. He also said that we need to get more connections to support the system. The Commission discussed offering incentives to connect. Tim will bring proposal to offer incentives to our next meeting.

Tim K reported that he went to class at Devens talking about lead service lines. The state require all water systems to come up with a plan to inspect and replace lead lines. The program will have to be in place by 2024. The program can be fully funded by a forgiven SRF loan. Funding for the program of \$111,250 will be on the ATM warrant. This is the cost of the program and must be appropriated but will be fully forgiven. The Town has to inspect both sides of the curb stop (homeowner and town) although would only have to fix town side. Our regs have always required copper pipes so should have no lead lines to remediate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57.