

MEETING OF THE ORLEANS
BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 21, 2023

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners held a hybrid meeting on Wednesday June 21, 2023 to conduct regular business.

Those present were Alan McClennen Mark Berson, John Meyer and Robert Rich of the Board; Len Short and Kevin Mahoney Associate Members of the Board; Todd Bunzick and Susan Brown of the Water Department; Tom Daley, Director of Public Works and Natural Resources; Kevin Galligan of the Select Board and Wastewater Management Advisory Committee; Lynn Bruneau, liaison from the Finance Committee; and Daniel Sullivan-Xenos from Veolia. Kevin Mahoney will act as a voting member of the board.

Alan McClennen called the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mark Berson and seconded by Robert Rich, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 17, 2023. The vote by the board was 4-0-0 with Mark Berson, Robert Rich, Len Short, and Kevin Mahoney all voting aye by roll call.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

NEW HIRE

The department has interviewed a gentleman and he will begin some time after Labor Day, when he has completed his summer work. There is another gentleman that is interested in interviewing as well, and Todd will report back on the outcome.

WELL #4, CLEANING AND REDEVELOPING/THUNDERSTORM DAMAGE

The department received a bid back for cleaning of Well #4. There was an electrical storm two weeks ago Friday that took a big strike on the well field, and the electricity cooked the VFD. There is a new VFD due tomorrow and Todd plans to get it back online as soon as possible. Mark Berson inquired if we are insured for these repairs. Unfortunately, we are not insured for this damage so these repairs will come out of the budget. However, Sue will inquire but in the past it has not been covered.

POWERWASHING STORAGE TANKS

Todd referenced the pictures provided of before and after. The project is not complete. The pictures were also posted on social media.

WTP LAGOON REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The project is basically done and the lagoon can go online. Per the referenced email, the DEP gave the ok, and the DEP officially signed off yesterday, June 20th. At this point the replacement lagoon is up and running.

DROUGHT STATUS

DEP declared a level one drought for Cape and Islands. Our green line is just barely above the trigger mark. Sue will keep an eye on this daily. It is unlikely that the rain we just had will make it to the aquifer, but Sue will verify this. An emergency meeting may need to be called to vote on the institution of mandatory restrictions.

RATES

The provided proposal for incremental water rate increase to be effective October 1, 2023, this year which is the first billing of FY2024. The recommendation is for a net 3% increase, some customers will have a negative increase and some will have a substantial increase. The average is 3.15% overall. Another recommendation is the change of structure from a 4 tier system to a 3 tier system. This will benefit elderly, small family, and year round residents. This would require public hearing by the Board of Selectmen. The best practice would be to hold a public hearing late August or early September. Sue hopes that Tom Daley can bring this to his July meeting as an item.

A motion was made by John Meyer, seconded by Kevin Mahoney to approve the recommendation of the proposed FY24 water rates. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITMENTS/ABATEMENTS/REFUNDS

A motion was made by Mark Berson, seconded by John Meyer to commit water receivables for the month of May, 2023 a total of \$11,347.72. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

A motion was made by Mark Berson seconded by Kevin Mahoney to commit sewer receivables for the month of April, 2023 a total of \$33,780.00. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

A motion was made by Mark Berson seconded by John Meyer to commit sewer receivables for the month of May, 2023 a total of \$42,994.80. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WATERSHED - RON COLLINS

Direction from the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners is to have Ron Collins to work with the Select Board, who has voted their support. Tom Daley will get on Mike Ford's schedule to review Article 97 issues.

Ron asked if it needs to go behind the meter or metered into the utility grid and receive credits back against the plant meter. Sue states that would be Article 97. Kevin Galligan says expect this to be Article 97. Kevin states Ron should take advantage of CVEC - Cape & Vineyard Energy Cooperative as a resource.

SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT

BEACON ROOM, DEFERMENT REQUEST

In 2020, the entire leach field was replaced. The Board of Health allows for if the entire system has been replaced, deferment can be up to 10 years. However, Beacon Room did not replace the entire system. The recommendation is to see if the Board of Health will allow a variance to tie in.

A motion was made by Mark Berson, seconded by John Meyer to recommend Beacon Room to the Orleans Board of Health for a variance to tie in. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

5 NORTH COTTAGE ST, REQUEST TO NOT CONNECT TO SEWER

The lower cottage of 5 North Cottage Street is only a seasonal dwelling unit. There is no rental of the unit, no heat, no furnace, no hot water. The property may be taken by a storm at any moment as the tide comes in very high now, and to connect to the collections system would be a large financial burden on the family. Water is supplied only by a garden hose. The recommendation is to see if the Board of Health will allow alternative methods for the lower cottage on the property to not connect to the collections system.

A motion was made by Mark Berson, seconded by Robert Rich to recommend 5 North Cottage Street to the Orleans Board of Health for alternative methods for the lower cottage on the property to not connect to the collections system. The vote by the Board was 4-0-0 with Mark Berson, Robert Rich, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call, John Meyer recused himself.

NON-FLUSHABLE WIPES - MARK BERSON, MIKE FORD

Mark Berson reminded the Board of the severity of the wipes on the collections system. Mark researched the differences between biodegradable paper wipes and synthetic

wipes and would like there to be a statute enforced by the Attorney General that "flushable" wipes are deceptive. Tom Daley presented this to Mike Ford and he is working on reviewing and getting back to us for the next Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners meeting. John Meyer asks to hear from Veolia in regards to wipes.

DEDUCT METERS

The deduct meter is for someone who has irrigation on the public water supply and they do not want to pay for that on the sewer use side as well. There are draft updated Sewer Use Rules and Regulations that have the ability to allow deduct meters, which the owner would pay for as well as the monthly reading charge, installation, and plumbing. There is currently one deduct meter installed at the Orleans Yacht Club for their boat washing water, they were billed for the meter. The \$0.89 reading charge will be billed to the sewer department each month by the water department.

DRAIN LAYER, GFM EXCAVATING

Motion to approve the application for GFM Excavating, by John Meyer, seconded by Robert Rich. Vote by the Board 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, Kevin Mahoney, John Meyer, Robert Rich, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

VEOLIA UPDATE

Daniel Sullivan-Xenos states that flushable wipes are a problem with the wastewater system, however Veolia's job is to mitigate the issues. South Shore Generator performed load bank testing on the generators at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Pump Station 1, and Pump Station 2 on May 25th and 26th. They will be back in early July to perform maintenance on the Pump Station 3 generator.

MADEP came for visit on June 16th and stated that there were no immediate concerns, they will follow up with a formal report. AquaAerobics was on site for 3 days, June 6 through 8, for SBR training.

We are averaging 17,800 gallons a day in septage. Alan took a trip to the plant recently and thanked the staff for the cleanliness of the plant.

Tom Daley stated there was a flurry of permit requests and connection applications, followed by a lull, which soon picked up again.

Sue reminded the Board that June 30th is the last day for billing and sewer needs to bill anyone using the system or we will lose the revenue.

ADJOURNMENT

AECOM is set to award C.C. Construction the Meetinghouse Pond contract in the next couple of days per Alan's conversation with Tim Harrison earlier today.

The next meeting is July 19th, which is the first meeting of FY24. At this meeting there will be a reorganization for the year. John Meyer up for reappointment as well as two new open positions based on charter approval in May.

On a motion by John Meyer seconded by Mark Berson the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:16pm. The vote by the Board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, Kevin Mahoney, John Meyer, Robert Rich, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED

1. Draft Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting
2. Town of Orleans Water Department, Tank Cleaning Photos
3. Lagoon Replacement Approval, MassDEP
4. USGS Well BMW22 Depth to Groundwater
5. Town of Orleans Water Department, Proposed Water Rate Increase
6. Town of Orleans Water Department Commitments, May, 2023
7. Town of Orleans Sewer Department Commitments, April, 2023
8. Town of Orleans Sewer Department Commitments, May, 2023
9. Beacon Room Deferment Request
10. 5 North Cottage St Request to Not Connect to Sewer
11. Application for Drain Layer's License from GFM Excavating
12. Town of Orleans Sewer Department, May 2023 Monthly Operating Report

Submitted by: Marinna Raucci, Veolia