

MEETING OF THE ORLEANS
BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
JULY 19, 2023

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners held a hybrid meeting on Wednesday July 19, 2023 to conduct regular business.

Those present were Alan McClennen, Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, John Meyer, Len Short and Kevin Mahoney of the Board; Tim Counihan and Virginia Farber 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; Tim Harrison from AECOM; Lynn Bruneau, liaison from the Finance Committee; and Edwin Mcauliffe from Veolia. Virginia Farber 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.

INTRODUCTION, KIM NEWMAN

Alan McClennen introduced Kim Newman, Town Manager, who is visiting boards and committees hoping to meet everyone. Alan asked that each member introduce themselves and their background.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Reorganization of the board will be postponed until the next meeting due to the absence of Robert Rich, so everyone can participate.

MINUTES

Alan asked that Marinna make the correction to the adjournment of the June 21, 2023 minutes to add John Meyer to the vote as he was omitted.

On a motion by Mark Berson and seconded by John Meyer, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 21, 2023. The vote by the board was 5-0-0 with Mark Berson, John Meyer, Len Short, Kevin Mahoney, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

NEW HIRE, JACOB MARSHALL

The water department has a new hire, Jake Marshall who transferred over from the transfer station. As he will be working on the treatment side, he has been working alongside Calvin learning what he needs to know. Both new hires are currently in school together.

WELL #4

A VFD showed up the day of the last meeting and the drive was put in. The well worked and shut down and would not restart automatically. The contractor came out quickly and pulled the motor to find the clutch on the top of the motor was binding, it may have been cooked in the electrical storm. The pump and column was pulled and evaluated which revealed the column, spider, and bearings are all bad. There is also a bad weld in the top of the screen in the weld. The current pump that needs to be replaced or rebuilt, of which the price varies from about \$2,000 to be rebuilt and \$7,200 - \$7,300 to be purchased new. This will need to go to the October town meeting as these funds are not available in the budget.

Tom Daley states that it be taken into consideration for the next budget season that it is absolutely scary that the water department doesn't have \$2,000 to make a repair, this budget has been limited to the same percentage budget as a general fund for decades and whenever there is a hiccup we have to go to a special town meeting, which is not appropriate. He also states it would be best to buy a new pump.

A motion was made by Mark Berson seconded by Richard Hartmann to place an article on the warrant for the October town meeting for the purchase of the new pump. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, John Meyer, Len Short, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

WTP LAGOON REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Photos were included in the packet of the lagoon project. Todd states there are punch list items remaining at this time, which are mostly odds and ends. The lagoons have some sand sliding in with rain water so the contractor needs to go back in and straighten them out. Todd is hoping with grass growing the problem will resolve itself.

DROUGHT STATUS

Sue refers to the chart provided in the packet and states we dropped below the target line on June 21st. We are now slightly above, but not gaining, we are maintaining and water is not making it to the aquifer. At this time, it is not necessary to go forward with mandatory restrictions.

RATES, PUBLIC HEARING, JULY 19, 2023 AT 5:15PM

Tom and Sue will be going before the Select Board to request a 4.98% increase which is a net increase of 3.14% as some people will make out and some will be paying the 4.98% increase due to the change in tiers from four to three. Sue has also submitted Q&As that she will be speaking to at the meeting.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Every five years, the asset management plan is revised. It will be due in 2025. Sue has been talking with Weston & Sampson and they would like to do the next asset

management plan and would like to work with us to get a grant for this, which must be submitted by August. By the time the grant is awarded it will be around the 2025 mark. Sue would like a chapter to be added for the water treatment plant as it is aging and a discussion on water main replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITMENTS/ABATEMENTS/REFUNDS

A motion was made by John Meyer, seconded by Mark Berson to commit water receivables for the month of June, 2023 a total of \$6,295.00. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

A motion was made by Len Short seconded by Mark Berson to commit sewer receivables for the month of June, 2023 a total of \$54,995.80. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

A motion was made by Len Short seconded by John Meyer to abate a total of \$7,582.03 to 24 S. Orleans Road. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

A motion was made by John Meyer seconded by Mark Berson to abate a total of \$10.43 to 8 Megs Lane. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WATERSHED - Mark Berson, Mike Ford

Alan reached out to Mike Ford today to see if there is an Article 97 Permit required, and is waiting to hear back. There are many staff working together to get this project in motion.

Len brought up the issue of horizontal panels building up dust and pollen and mentioned that there is a new kind of solar panel that is vertical and takes up much less room and will gain sunlight for longer periods of time each day. There seems to be a large move in this direction and Len asks that the group look into this technology, offered by 360Solar, LTD.

SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT

19 WEST ROAD, INCREASE IN ALLOCATED FLOWS

Motion to approve the increase of 6,022.16 gallons per day for 19 West Road by Len Short seconded by John Meyer. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

CENTER PLACE, REQUEST TO OMIT IRRIGATION METERS FROM BETTERMENT CALCULATION

Gary and Robin appeared from Center Place accompanied by the resident of the unit that uses the water. Through analysis of what has been estimated for the betterment as well as cross referencing Eye on Water's records for accounts 4126 and 5096 utilizing the periods of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Account 5096 is strictly used for irrigation and Center Place asks that it be removed from the betterment. Account 4126 feeds part of the irrigation system as well as Unit A in the complex, and requests a certain amount of that usage be deducted from the betterment. They will be installing a deduct meter to keep the usage separate in the future.

Alan anticipates a number of cases to be heard over the next several months as residents question irrigation being used for the betterment calculation. This is because at the time, we did not know what meters were for irrigation purposes. Alan suggests that Center Place should install the new meter and let the Board know when it has been done so we have a clear record of that property to deal with the betterment assignment. Robin is hoping by the end of 2023 or early 2024 to be connected to the sewer system. Sue asks that they have a plumber on hand to install the meter at that time.

June 30, 2024 is the final read for the betterment period. Tom suggests July 1, 2024 to put it on the calendar to come back to the Board for a further discussion in August.

NON-FLUSHABLE WIPES - MARK BERSON, MIKE FORD

Mark has not received an update from Mike Ford on this matter. Alan suggested he reach out to Mike again.

DRAIN LAYER, CHASE LANDSCAPE

Motion to approve the application for Chase Landscape, by John Meyer seconded by Mark Berson. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

VEOLIA UPDATE

June was the end of the first full quarter of operations for the facility and Ed shared the average of key performance indicators to give an idea of how well the facility is doing. The Total Suspended Solids in effluent annual average year to date is 4.8, the limit is 30; effluent Nitrate is 2.35, the limit is 10; Total Nitrogen 4.45, the limit is 10; BOD is 3.7, the limit is 30. All of those parameters are very low below our limits stated in our permit.

We are seeing flows starting to increase, there are currently 12 tie-ins to date. Last month we were seeing flows of about 12,000, as of this morning we are seeing an average of about 20,000 - 25,000. We continue to meet with Reggie to get an overview of the tie in process throughout the town. Tom Daley drafted a reminder notice to go out to the residents giving them an idea of how long the process can take with the required steps.

August 1, the WWTF staff will begin a pilot with Waterly which is a remote data collection. We are one of the first Veolia sites to do this. If all goes well, this will free up more of Ed and Marinna's time in reporting.

There have been a few noise complaints and we are working with Tom and AECOM to remediate the problem. Ed continues to stay in contact with those who have filed complaints on what is being done to reach a resolution.

Richard questioned the 11.5% effluent number of the allowed annual daily flow. Ed explained that septage is driving this and he believes it will start to level off and we will have to adjust our septage receiving to take into account the daily flow down the road. Lynn asked why it is important to track precipitation of rainfall, to which Ed explained down the road we will be able to look back to determine if daily flows change with the rain that we may have a problem with groundwater getting into the pipes. She also asked about the comparison of septage to tri-town in terms of volume. Tri-town at the end had been averaging about 30,000 gallons per day, right now we are averaging about 20,000 per day, but it does ebb and flow.

Alan asked that Tim Harrison bring us up to date on Meetinghouse Pond. The preconstruction meeting with C.C. Construction has occurred and the project has kicked off at this point. Forms and submittals are being put in place with the contractor. They would like to break ground in the middle of August on a limited number of streets that will not disrupt traffic during the summer. The first introduction letter to Phase 2 owners will go out on Friday. The next letter will go out a few days later to Phase 1 owners to remind them they have until March 16th to connect. Following those letters a week from Friday, a letter will go out to the owners in Phase 2 on the limited streets being worked on about where their sewer connection is expected to be. Shortly after, the letter will go out to everyone else in Phase 2. Sometime in Phase 2 a revised Property Owner's Guidebook will be released.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Len Short seconded by John Meyer the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:06pm. The vote by the Board was 7-0-0 with Mark Berson, Richard Hartmann, Len Short, John Meyer, Kevin Mahoney, Virginia Farber, and Alan McClennen all voting aye by roll call.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED

1. Draft Minutes of the June 21, 2023 Meeting
2. Town of Orleans Water Department, Telephone Pole Photo
3. Town of Orleans Water Department, Lagoon Project Photo
4. USGS Well BMW22 Depth to Groundwater
5. Town of Orleans Water Department, Rates for July 19, 2023 Public Hearing
6. Town of Orleans Water Department Commitments, June, 2023
7. Town of Orleans Sewer Department Commitments, June, 2023
8. Town of Orleans Water Department Refund Request, 24 S. Orleans Road
9. Town of Orleans Water Department Abatement Request, 8 Megs Lane
10. Application for Additional Allocated Wastewater Flow, 19 West Road
11. Center Place Analysis and Request to Omit Irrigation Accounts from Betterment
12. Application for Drain Layer's License from Chase Landscape
13. Town of Orleans Sewer Department, June 2023 Monthly Operating Report

Submitted by: Marinna Raucci, Veolia