

Water Subcommittee Meeting

6/23/2016
7:00 PM to 8:40 PM
Utilities Department Conference Room

Attendees: J. Engel, D. Standley, E. Rauscher, M. Dougherty, V. Halmen, K. Repucci

Agenda

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| Citizen Queries | Chair | 5 |
| Approval of Minutes | Chair | 5 |
| Hood Farm Area Hydrant Flushing Concerns | Vicki/Ed | 20 |
| Master Plan Scope | All | 60 |
| Updates | Vicki | 5 |
| Other Business | All | 5 |

Additional Information

Observers: McGurin (7 Hood Farm), Murray (10 Hood Farm), Denton (2 Hood Farm), Bartlett (4 Hood Farm), Hoy (18 Hood Farm)

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Agenda

Citizen Queries

Chair

5

Discussion: None

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Approval of Minutes

Chair

5

Discussion: Minutes from the May 3, 2016 were moved for approval by D. Standley, E. Rauscher seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Hood Farm Area Hydrant Flushing Concerns

Vicki/Ed

20

Discussion: The water system in this area of town is very sensitive. Annual flushing is known to be disruptive to area residents. The Water Department goes to great lengths to minimize those disruptions, however, system hydraulics limit their abilities. Area residents have been invited for a discussion on the issues related to the flushing program.

E. Rauscher and V. Halmen explain the annual flushing impacts to the area and why they occur and steps the Water Dept. took to lessen the issues prior to flushing in 2016. Residents in attendance share their stories of water issues. J. Engel asks they be specific to during flushing activities. McGurin provided a memo he asked be incorporated into the minutes.

V. Halmen mentioned two potential options to further address the issues occurring during flushing: (1) installation of a municipal water tank in the area (2) individual homeowners install an air release valve and backflow preventer on their service lines just after their water meter. Another option mentioned was a check valve on the town system. After some discussion, this did not seem a likely option.

Conclusions: V. Halmen would investigate costs associated with locating a municipal water tank in the area as well as pricing on a typical air release + backflow device setup in a home.

Action items: Obtain preliminary pricing as discussed

Person responsible: V. Halmen

Deadline: Next meeting

Master Plan Scope

All

60

Discussion: Continuation of discussion from May's meeting on scope development.

V. Halmen reviewed discussions to date, including a brainstorming meeting conducted on June 8th with staff. D. Standley mentioned a grant program through the state he wasn't sure would apply to this effort. The lack of reservoir storage was discussed. Dredging or enlargement of Dow Reservoir could be considered. Expansion of Bull Brook Reservoir was studied in the 1990's and found not feasible. J. Engel felt it was time we revisit the idea of wastewater reuse. This could be in the form of a groundwater discharge in the Bull Brook watershed and may require a significant water treatment plant upgrade. This idea was studied several years ago and did not have the support of the state water and wastewater agencies.

Engineering consultant AECOM was under contract for the Manganese evaluation at Browns Well and currently to conduct a test well program in search of additional/replacement well sources in the Parker River Watershed. It was decided that this water supply effort should continue and be considered phase 1 (supply), currently funded with FY16 funds. Phase 2 would be the infrastructure evaluation with prioritization of needs (capital improvement plan), funded in FY17. Phase 3 would combine phase 1 and 2 efforts to produce a cohesive plan covering supply and infrastructure needs, current and future. The engineer for phase 2 will be selected through a request for qualifications process.

Conclusions:

Action items: V. Halmen will prepare a scope and RFQ document

Person responsible: V. Halmen

Deadline: Next meeting

| Updates | | | Vicki | 5 |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|----------|
| <u>Discussion: V. Halmen provided a status update on the Linebrook Road water main construction.</u> | | | | |
| <u>A letter to all commercial water customers warning them of their increasing water use was sent on June 14, 2016.</u> | | | | |
| <u>K. Repucci provided an update of FY16 financials and asked if OPEB contributions should be increased for FY16 to fund the full value of the annual required contribution as detailed in the Odyssey report.</u> | | | | |
| <u>Conclusions: D. Standley moved to recommend the Water Commissioners increase the FY16 OPEB funds, as discussed. E. Rauscher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</u> | | | | |
| <u>Action items: E. Rauscher to convene commissioner meeting for formal vote.</u> | | <u>Person responsible: E. Rauscher</u> | <u>Deadline: ASAP</u> | |
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| Other Business | | | All | 5 |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| <u>Discussion: E. Rauscher asked that regulation of private wells be discussed at the next meeting.</u> | | | | |
| <u>Conclusions:</u> | | | | |
| <u>Action items:</u> | | <u>Person responsible:</u> | <u>Deadline:</u> | |
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| Additional Information | | | | |
| D. Standley moved to adjourn, M. Dougherty seconded. Vote unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM. | | | | |

June 23, 2016

To: Water Department and Water Committee

Subject: Water Pipe Flushing Impact

I would like to document my concerns from the past year regarding the impact of the Town of Ipswich annual water flushing on my home on and possibly my neighbors on Hood Farm Rd. and Abbott Lane.

For Twenty Plus years, I have experienced the impact of the water flushing on my home at 7 Hood Farm Rd. During the annual process (1-2 weeks) water is drained from my house. I originally thought this to be normal. This is not the normal impact, not to mention any water Bill accuracy verification. I have no water each day for a four hour period from 8-12PM. This has a huge impact on my family and guests. I cannot drink water, cook, wash or flush toilets. Also, it is unsanitary.

When water returns there is still excessive air in the water pipes even though attempts have been made to reduce the air. Additional Hydrants and valves during flushing have not worked. The banging that occurs when water is turned on from faucets, showers, tubs and toilets is unacceptable each morning. I am concerned about interior plumbing and gas lines. The annual wear on the burner, pipes, water heater, faucets and especially gas lines because of the banging adds up each year. The town employees who are aware of the issue may move on and over the years issues get forgotten.

At the last Water Department Meeting I attended, I mentioned that each year I service my burner in preparation for winter. Prior to 2016, I specifically asked Home Serve to look at my burner to insure that I was prepared for the winter and the Town of Ipswich Annual Spring Water Flushing. Unfortunately, in 2016 I had to call Home Serve because of water on my basement floor each day of the flushing. Also, I had to stay up until midnight to insure no further damage to the burner and to collect overflow water. What if I was not home? I was told by Home Serve Tech. that a Watts 9D-M3, 1/2 inch Backflow Preventer was leaking after water pressure supply interruption by the Town of Ipswich, Water Flushing. The part is not covered by my repair plan and cost \$196.00 to replace.

In closing, the Town of Ipswich-Water Department must address all Hood Farm Rd. and Abbott Lane, Annual Water Flushing issues and concerns. I am especially concerned about the 8 inch pipe, looping and hydraulics issues, that Water Department has mentioned and are aware of in our area. Why was the water pipe design (no loop system) allowed to be permitted, approved and installed. The water pressure issues need to be addressed, buy the Town of Ipswich, so that emergencies, gas or fire, can be responded to quickly.

Thank You,

Paul D. McGurin