

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2018

This meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Richard Johnson, Ann Roosevelt (by phone), Kathleen Kelly, Jim Burruss and Jason Marshall

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Mark Gallagher and Dave Kaplan

Visitors: Ashira Morris (resident), Dan Totten (Councilor Zondervan's Aide), Nora Bent (Councilor Devereux's Aide), Kate Robb (Harvard School of Public Health), Ali Hendren (resident)

A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2017 and JANUARY 9, 2018 MEETINGS

Mr. Johnson moved and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve both the December 12, 2017 and January 9, 2018 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) Program Update:

The Meter Transmitter Unit (MTU) replacement contract is proceeding with 7600 out of 15,000 MTUs replaced. This project started out slowly because of a MTU/Meter compatibility problem which was corrected by the MTU Vendor in early Winter 2017. We anticipate that the project will be completed in August and we can report on the status at the September Board Meeting.

DCR Greenway Update:

The bid opening continues to be scheduled for late February. The bid specifications have not yet been released. The DCR consultant will advise when they are released and will provide a copy to CWD.

The City plan is still to have a public meeting (date not yet defined); to respond to the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board letter; to set-up the proposed lighting scheme as a demonstration.

Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP)/Plastic Pipe Update:

The 40" riveted steel force and supply line evaluation contract has been awarded. The scope of work includes: 1) sophisticated leak detection with internal videotaping, 2) existing cathodic protection system evaluation, 3) design of the Huron Avenue pipe crossing.

A resolution was handed out for a vote relating to the Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP), see below. Mr. Burruss moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to vote on the resolution. Ms. Roosevelt asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Roosevelt then stated that Mr. Marshall had written the resolution for the Cambridge Water Board to vote on at this meeting. The intent of the resolution was to memorialize the standing of CIPP pipe as an alternate material to the standard Ductile Iron Cement Lined pipe used by the Department and that the Water Board, Water Department and the City would work collaboratively to determine if this (CIPP) or other alternate piping materials were appropriate for use in Cambridge's water system and if so under what circumstances. There was no more discussion.

The vote was then taken and was unanimous in favor of adopting the resolution as written.

The next step will involve compiling any existing data, reports, information and current uses of CIPP/Plastic Pipe and having a discussion as to what the "go forward strategy" will be.

RESOLUTION OF THE CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

February 13, 2018

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2017, the City Manager sent a communication to the Water Board clarifying that the Cambridge Water Department (“Department”) employs a ductile iron cement lined pipe as its standard pipe and that there are no plans to install within the Cambridge water system Cured-In-Place Plastic Pipe (“CIPP”); and

WHEREAS, the City Manager committed to a public process prior to the installation of any new transmission main connecting the Cambridge treatment plant to the storage tank at Payson Park in Belmont (“Transmission Main”); and

WHEREAS, the Department plans to commence in the near-term a process to analyze any potential uses and effects of CIPP and any other pipe other than the standard ductile iron; and

WHEREAS, the Department intends to develop a “go-forward” strategy for this process, which will include input, review, and response from the Water Board and Cambridge Public Health Department (“Health Department”); and

WHEREAS, the Department is in the process of engaging a consultant to compile any existing data, reports, information, and current uses of CIPP/plastic pipe (the “Consultant Contract”);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Water Board expresses its appreciation to the City Manager and the Department for clarifying the use of ductile iron cement lined pipe as the Department’s standard pipe, that there are no plans to install any pipe deviating from such standard pipe, and committing to a public process related to the Transmission Main; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water Board encourages the Department to initiate a public workshop or other forum for the Department, Water Board, Health Department, and others to discuss the “go-forward” strategy for analyzing CIPP at a mutually agreed upon time in April or May 2018; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water Board supports the Department delaying finalization and execution of the Consultant Contract until such time as the “go forward” strategy has been developed, with input from the Water Board, Health Department, and others as appropriate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water Board looks forward to continued discussions with the City Manager and the Department regarding the installation of new water distribution infrastructure, including, as necessary, the project design and materials in connection with the Transmission Main, and in working together with the city administration to ensure public processes precede the commencement of this design work and/or the installation of any pipes deviating from the standard ductile iron cement lined pipe; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with the City’s Manager’s clarification and commitment regarding CIPP, the Water Board will consider further action following the Department’s analysis and associated public process; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be included as part of the meeting minutes for the February 13, 2018 meeting of the Water Board.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Ms. Roosevelt brought up 412 Mt. Auburn Street as a point of information. Mr. Corda replied that this situation is being handled through the Law Department.

Watershed: Ms. Roosevelt asked whom could attend the Fresh Pond Reservation Plant List discussion to possibly update the 1999 Natural Resources Stewardship Plan plant list. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Kelly volunteered to attend this meeting.

Mr. Marshall asked how the Watertown Meeting on the Stony Brook Conduit Management plan to remove and trim additional trees went. Mr. Corda responded with a brief history of the project and that the meeting was very positive and went well and we were scheduling the tree pruning and removals.

We continue to work with the Law Department on the 104 Boston Post Road project. The project was denied by the Town of Weston ZBA and is in the State Housing Appeals Committee, the appeal to DEP is also still pending.

We continue to be in the recharge cycle for our reservoirs and based on precipitation predictions, don't anticipate that we will be in a drought condition this spring.

Business:

It was reiterated that the reason for the variations in usage from cycle to cycle is simply the size of the accounts within that cycle.

Water Operations:

Mr. MacDonald noted that as we continue and move toward the completion of the variable frequency drive (VFD) project we will continue to see energy efficiency improvements. He also mentioned that the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system upgrade kickoff meeting was held.

Engineering:

It was noted that the latest group of Engineering Coops have been trained and are doing well.

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

The article on the "nations waterways becoming saltier" was brought up. It was asked what were the variables contributing to the "salt/chlorides" in our water? It was noted that the "chlorides" have been increasing since the 1990's and that "storm salts" were a component of this increase. It was additionally noted that we have been working with MassDOT for quite a while and they are using technologies such as "geo-fencing", GPS, alternate materials, and working to prevent redundant "salting" of various roadways and ramps.

The letter from Ms. O'Connell on the Merriam Street sidewalk construction, in Weston, was noted.

The Board acknowledged the e-mail "letter" of praise to the Distribution division and associated personnel relating to the "outstanding" work performed under the most difficult weather conditions.

Ms. Roosevelt moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to commend the Distribution Division Staff for Extra Ordinary Efforts During Extreme Weather Conditions. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- March 13, 2018: Approved/40" force and supply line evaluation update/ CIPP/Plastic Pipe Update
- April 10, 2018: Approved/ CIPP/Plastic Pipe Update
- May 8, 2018: TBA/TBD
- June 12, 2018: TBA/TBD

Ms. Kelly moved and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.