

**Attendees**

***Water and Sewerage Board Members***

Christian Carpenter  
Bill Harvey  
Clair Meehan  
Dave Pucci

***Others***

Maurice Goulet – DPW  
Nicholas Milano – Town  
Bob Sliney – Medfield Warrant Committee  
John Walsh – Aquarion Water

**Agenda**

1. Approval of outstanding meeting minutes: 15 January 2022
2. Review of status of Board Holdover Actions List from 15 January minutes
3. Discussion with Aquarion Water Regarding Supply of Temporary Drinking Water to Aquarion
4. Board review of draft capital projects for water and sewerage for FY2023–2026
5. Board review of draft operating budget for FY 2023

**New Action Items during This Meeting**

#	Item	Responsible	Due
1.	Seek input from Environmental Partners about whether there are known cases of DEP requesting that a temporary interconnection to a third party be made permanent	M. Goulet	April 2022
2.	Engage Selectmen on Aquarion Request	N. Milano	April 2022
3.	Obtain Town Counsel Input on Aquarion Request	N. Milano	April 2022
4.	Circulate Draft DEP General WWTP Permit	M. Goulet	April 2022

**Holdover Action Items**

#	Item	Responsible	Due
1.	Provide template for Board task overview	K. Trierweiler/N. Milano	March 2022

Meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

**1. Approval of outstanding meeting minutes: 15 February 2022**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

**2. Holdover Actions: 15 February 2022**

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

### **3. Discussion with Aquarion Water Regarding Supply of Temporary Drinking Water to Aquarion**

J. Walsh, Vice President of Operations & Utility Innovation at Aquarion Water, joined the meeting to discuss a request to the Town of Medfield. Aquarion, in Dover, MA, is seeking to install a temporary interconnection (hydrant to hydrant) at the Town line on Route 109 and purchase water from Medfield to supplement their own water supply for system flushing. Their system has been experiencing discolored water due to elevated levels of manganese in several groundwater supply wells, and system flushing is part of the plan to address this problem. Aquarion would like to conduct system flushing this March 2022, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., with an expectation of needing 300–400 gallons per minute from Medfield's water system during those hours. The project is expected to take four weeks. Aquarion is prepared to incur all costs associated with any required temporary infrastructure, including piping, a pump (if required), a water meter, and backflow device and will pay for the water used. J. Walsh added that Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in favor of Aquarion seeking water from neighboring towns.

The Board discussed the possibility of this interconnect and the potential impacts to Medfield's own system. Key concerns included (1) availability of water; (2) potential impacts to Medfield's water quality; and (3) potential inconvenience to citizens near the project.

#### *Availability of water*

Throughout the year, the Board monitors water usage and enacts water restrictions as needed. At this point in the year, Medfield has adequate water supply, and water restrictions are typically not needed until the summer when outdoor water use increases, depending on precipitation. M. Goulet expressed concern about allowing the interconnection in the spring when water usage for the entire year is unknown. The Board agreed that it would be preferable to consider allowing the interconnection in the fall when water usage is better forecast. Waiting until the fall would also ensure that town citizens do not receive a mixed message if water restrictions are implemented in the warmer months; it could be difficult to explain why citizens need to conserve water if the Town is selling water to another entity. J. Walsh indicated that Aquarion would be willing to conduct flushing in the fall. He also indicated that, even if an agreement were to be put into place, Aquarion would be willing to stop using Medfield water immediately should the Town say that it would like to stop the interconnection.

#### *Potential impacts to Medfield's water quality*

Some concern was expressed about the potential for the interconnection to allow for manganese into the Medfield system. J. Walsh indicated that a backflow preventer could be installed to ensure that no water flows from Dover back to the Medfield system.

#### *Potential inconvenience to citizens near the project*

The group considered the potential inconvenience of citizens with property adjacent to the project. B. Harvey indicated that Aquarion would have to do outreach to those property owners.

Beyond the three key concerns, the Board also discussed whether allowing this temporary interconnection might result in an expectation by Massachusetts DEP that a more permanent interconnection be established. J. Walsh noted that Aquarion does not have an insufficient water supply and is not seeking a permanent connection. M. Goulet will seek input from Environmental Partners about whether there are known cases of DEP requesting that a temporary interconnection to a third party be made permanent. It was noted that Aquarion and Medfield are in different regions for Massachusetts DEP.

The Board concluded this topic, indicating that they are open to potentially allowing the interconnection, but this would need to be discussed with the Selectmen. N. Milano will bring this issue to the Selectmen for their consideration this spring. In addition, he will seek input from Town Counsel.

**4. Board review of draft capital projects for water and sewerage for FY2023–2026**

The Board reviewed the updated list of capital projects for FY2023–2026, with a focus on finalizing the FY2023 expenditure for inclusion in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

At the last meeting, the Board had discussed studying at both the water distribution system and sewer system to be able to prioritize work and update the master plan. M. Goulet estimates a cost of \$350,000 to study both the treatment plant and collection system. Ultimately, both will need to be studied, and he asked the Board to provide input. B. Harvey suggested that it would be prudent to study the I/I issues first. Based on Board feedback, M. Goulet proposed studying the collection system first using the available information from the I/I studies. There is still funding available for Woodard and Curran to use from FY2022.

N. Milano noted that there might be future projects that can be compiled into a single debt issuance. C. Carpenter added that for future years, we will need to exercise the rate model and come up with a plan that can be achieved with reasonable rate increase.

The group agreed to the following items for the FY2023 Warrant for Sewer:

- \$100,000 – Collection System Study (SEW 1)
  - \$50,000 – Charles River Interceptor Assessment (SEW 2)
  - \$100,00 – SCADA Improvements (SEW 5)
  - \$148,000 – Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements (SEW 10)
- TOTAL: \$398,000

C. Carpenter motioned to approve the FY2023 Sewer Capital Projects of \$398,000. C. Meehan seconded the motion.

Vote: Aye unanimous

Motion passes

For the water side, the group discussed projects, including the water main replacement study and design engineering, with the possibility of applying for ARPA funds. While water main design engineering might cost upward of \$300,000 ultimately, the Board agreed to allocate some funding in FY2023 so that design engineering might begin after the replacement study is complete. The Board will have to further study the rate model in considering future projects beyond FY2023.

The Board agreed to the following:

- \$100,000 – Water Main Replacement Study (WAT 1)
  - \$68,000 – Truck Replacement (WAT 2)
  - \$100,000 – SCADA Improvements (WAT 3)
  - \$100,000 – Water Main Design Engineering (WAT 4)
- TOTAL: \$368,000

C. Carpenter motioned to approve the FY2023 Water Capital Operating Projects of \$368,000.

C. Meehan seconded the motion.

Vote: Aye unanimous

Motion passes

Bob Sliney commented that this budget is consistent with past years. He asked that M. Goulet and B. Harvey attend the March 15 Warrant Committee meeting to provide context for the budget and to give an update on the WWTP.

**5. Board review of draft operating budget for FY 2023**

The Board reviewed the FY2023 draft operating budget, which includes a 0.9% increase for water and 0.5% increase for sewer. M. Goulet noted that a Town Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be decided the week of March 7, but that N. Milano added that the COLA amount does not need to be included in the approved budget.

C. Carpenter motioned to approve the FY2023 Water Operating Budget of \$1,098,591 and the FY2023 Sewer Operating Budget \$1,341,877. C. Meehan seconded the motion.

Vote: Aye unanimous

Motion passes

**6. Other**

M. Goulet informed the Board that DPW was recently notified about opting in/out of a new Massachusetts DEP general permit for the WWTP. He will circulate the draft permit to the Board. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Carpenter second motion.

Vote: Aye unanimous

Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 am.