

MINUTES
Warrant Committee Meeting
March 18, 2021

Warrant Committee Members	Participating remotely: Sharon Tatro (Chair), Ed Vozzella, Robert Sliney, Jeremy Marsette, Kristine Barton, Newton Thompson and Amanda Hall (departed meeting at 8:30). Absent:	
Guests	Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator Nicholas Milano, Assistant Town Administrator Bill Harvey, Board of Water and Sewerage (Chair) Randall Karg, Board of Water and Sewerage Maurice Goulet, DPW Director	
Meeting Location	By remote participation via Zoom	
Meeting Times	Meeting convened: 7:03 pm	Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minutes for March 15, 2021 were unanimously approved by those Warrant Committee Members in attendance at the time of the vote. 	
Operational Budgets (including votes taken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Warrant Articles (including votes taken)	Warrant articles approved unanimously by Warrant Committee members in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article 14 “Water Treatment Plant Bond Authorization” ● Article 38 “Update Stormwater Regulations Bylaw” 	
List of all documents and exhibits used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Medfield Well Water Project” PowerPoint presentation by Bill Harvey, Board of Water & Sewerage (Chair) 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Follow-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Dates for Meetings including WC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Warrant Committee Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 22 (Citizens’ Petitions) ○ March 25 (Final budget vote) ○ March 30 (if necessary) ○ April 1 (Warrant Hearing) 	
Names of people participating remotely and why	All Warrant Committee members and invited guests participated remotely; see above for names of attendees.	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharon Tatro opened the meeting at 7:03 pm and 1) recognized members of the Water & Sewerage Board to present the Water 	

Treatment Plant Bond Authorization warrant article; 2) requested an update from Town Finance on the status of FY22 budget.

- Water & Sewerage Water Treatment Plant Proposal:
 - a. See Bill Harvey’s PowerPoint presentation entitled “Medfield Well Water Project” which was separately presented to the Board of Selectmen on March 16, 2021.
 - b. This presentation by the Board of Water and Sewerage was in support of the Water Treatment Plant Bond Authorization, Warrant Article 14.
 - c. Mr. Harvey noted that the manganese concentration in the water at Well 3 is at an MA DEP “action” level requiring compliance from the Town; hence, the need to build the water treatment facility.
 - d. Other substantive justifications for the project are that:
 - i. Wells 3 and 4 need rehabilitation to bring production back to permitted design levels.
 - ii. Expanding the instantaneous capacity of Well 3 provides backup to our largest producer, Well 6.
 - iii. Investing in our infrastructure is the lowest cost to produce water.
 - iv. Medfield retains its water independence.
 - This point and iii above allude to the alternative of MWRA interconnection which was considered as an alternative to building the Water Treatment Plant, but found to be 3X more expensive in capital expenditures and 2X more expensive in operating expense. while also sacrificing the Town’s water independence.
 - e. Questions from members of the Warrant Committee followed:
 - i. Jeremy Marsette asked about about PFAS contaminants (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) used in consumer and industrial manufacturing which are persistent in the environment (so-called “forever chemicals”).
 - Bill Harvey noted that the proposed plant as currently designed will not treat PFAS contaminants, but does have the capacity to be enlarged and/or reconfigured to incorporate equipment to do so.
 - ii. Bob Sliney addressed the projected \$1.37 million Contingency, which along with estimates for construction of Plant and Infrastructure (\$9.02 million) and Engineering Services (\$1.58 million) comprise the total project cost of \$12 million for

	<p>the Warrant Article. Bob asked if it were not needed, how would it be disposed of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill Harvey indicated that if any of the contingency is not used, it could be used for capital projects by the Water Enterprise Fund. <p>iii. Newton Thompson inquired about the Engineering Services project estimate ops \$1.58 million, asking whether this sum included the prior expenditure of previously appropriated funds used to conduct prior studies for the treatment and disinfection of water wells 3, 4 and 5 and ultimately plant design. These appropriations in 2016-2018 Annual Town Meetings totaled \$1.035 million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill Harvey stated that they were not included and that the Engineering Services estimate of \$1.35 million was for new services. <p>iv. There being no other questions from the Warrant Committee, The Board of Water and Sewerage attendees departed the meeting.</p> <p>v. At a later point in the meeting, the Warrant Committee voted on Article 14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OTHER WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW AND ACTIONS TAKEN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Article 38 “Update Stormwater Regulations Bylaw” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Kristine Barton introduced this article noting that we have a stormwater bylaw already whose purpose is to protect groundwater. b. Maurice Goulet, DPW Director spoke to the primary reasons for the proposed changes presented in the article: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stormwater authority - As the bylaw is currently written, the DPW has total authority over stormwater, but other Town boards and committees have responsibility for stormwater management without possessing the authority to do so. The proposed bylaw will give authority to those groups. ii. Illicit discharges and connections - Direct Goulet noted that illicit discharges and connections are addressed in Bylaw Section 270, but not in Section 235 which establishes minimum requirements and controls to “protect and safeguard the environment . . . from adverse impacts of soil erosion, sedimentation and stormwater runoff” but does not address illicit discharges and connections.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Language from the federal Clean Water Act addressing the “Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) of pollutants (such as from stormwater) that a waterbody can accept and still meet the MA Water Quality Standards for public health and healthy ecosystems is being amended into the Town’s stormwater bylaw. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY 2022 BUDGET UPDATE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sharon Tatro presented a proposal to balance the budget which is largely based on the School Committee may no longer need the appropriation of \$680,000 envisioned in Warrant Article 7. b. Sharon restated the Town’s Financial Goals as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Be fiscally responsible about what is approved to be spent ii. Meet the Reserve Policy of no lower than 7.5% iii. Meet the Free Cash Policy of no lower than 2.5%. c. Current state of FY22 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There is a deficit of approx. \$420,000. ii. We are using free cash of just under \$1M as discussed in prior meetings. iii. In this scenario, we meet the reserve and free cash policies but have the \$420K deficit to close. d. New information for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Just prior to our meeting, Superintendent Jeff Marsden sent a letter to the Warrant Committee and School Committee proposing the withdrawal of Article 7. ii. This article would have potentially cost the town approximately \$680K at Town Meeting which would affect our reserve and free cash baseline going into balancing this budget. e. Sharon’s proposal is the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Due to the (potential) removal of Article 7, we can meet the goals by doing the following: ii. Add the \$680K into our Reserve Analysis as a guaranteed reserve for next year's budget iii. Continue to review items in the operating budget to be fiscally responsible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sharon suggested the following budget items specifically for discussion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$20K for the Planning Board article - Do we need it this year or can it wait? ○ \$15K for the Economic Vitality article - Is the balance high enough
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	<p>now that it doesn't need replenishing this year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$75K for the Public Health Nurse - Can we still hire this position and cut the funding in half? Can we look at funding the other half with something like a grant or sharing this resource regionally or with a surrounding town? If none of those things are possible can we still just fund half knowing that it will take time to hire and if there is a deficit late in the fiscal year for this is it something the reserve fund could help with or stimulus? ● The reductions above add up to \$70K. This would reduce the deficit to approx. \$350K <p>f. Conclusion: If we discuss and enact the above proposal, Sharon believes that all three stated financial goals are met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. However a major key to this is the removal of Article 7 because if we have to fund that, we cannot meet the Reserve Policy goal in the policy above. ii. Sharon will therefore be following up with the chair of the School Committee about asking to formally withdraw that article. <p>g. Warrant Committee questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bob Sliney suggested using the Article 7 monies for capital acquisitions instead of financing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We may need to redo the Capital expenditure budget to determine how we can meet financial goals and use Chapter 70 funds for capital. ii. Bob noted he was comfortable with voting about the above suggested reductions now, but others weighed in that they'd be more comfortable addressing specific reductions if the budget is final except for these few items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and voted unanimously by a roll call of all Warrant Committee members present. ● The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Newton H Thompson

Approved minutes to be sent to: nmilano@medfield.net