

## Duxbury Water & Sewer Advisory Board

TOWN CLERK

2023 NOV 29 PM 2: 20

Meeting minutes approved by W&SAB members at the November 27, 2023 meeting

DUXBURY, MASS.

Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2023 Meeting

### Attendees:

#### W&SAB Members

Tanya Trevisan

Bo Boynton

Paul Keohan

#### Town Staff

Peter Butkus, DPW Superintendent

Mark Cloud, Water Superintendent

### Guests

Bruce Bygate, BOH Liaison

Ryan Trahan, Environmental Partners

Michael Divirglio, Duxbury Resident

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The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 pm.

### Voting at July 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with the members of the W&SAB unanimously ratifying the voting from the July 21, 2023 meeting.

### Presentation by Environmental Partners

#### Regulatory Presentative

Ryan Trahan (RT) from Environmental Partners began his presentation with background information on the Federal and State regulations for PFAS compounds in drinking water. Currently, the MassDEP has a maximum concentration limit (MCL) for PFAS6 = 20 ppt (six compounds which are being regulated). The EPA is proposing a lower MCL of 4 ppt which will be adopted most likely by the end of this year. Public utilities responsible for drinking water sources will have 3 years to comply with the lowered MCL.

The MassDEP will adopt this standard or even set an even lower limit.

When Ryan was asked about funding for complying with these standards, RT mentioned the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). According to RT, ARPA has given Duxbury funds for

improving Partridge St. PS and Depot St. PS. These funds are distributed through county governments to cities and towns.

RT made it clear that ARPA funds are intended to restore drinking water facilities that currently are not in compliance with Federal standards. Today, only the Partridge PS and Depot PS are not in compliance. Partridge's PFAS6 levels have consistently exceeded the MassDEP's limit of 20 ppt, while Depot's manganese levels exceed the MassDEP MCL.

A question arose about whether the funds given to the Town stipulate that they be used only for Partridge St. and Depot St. Neither RT or Duxbury staff knew whether there were conditions placed on this money. It appears that the Finance Director would be able to answer this question.

RT was also asked why Partridge PS was selected as the first facility for implementing PFAS removal. The reasoning appears to be that Federal funds are available and the recent Duxbury Water System Master Plan recommended making improvements at Partridge St. PS. RT also made a point that every well in the Town's system is a valuable resource especially since it takes years to obtain a permit for a new water source.

Diverting funds away from Partridge St PS and Depot St PS continued to be a subject of further discussion. In particular, the fact that the PFAS6 MCL will be lowered to 4 ppt will make more of the wells not compliant. RT advised that the ARPA funds can not be used proactively. He agreed that prioritizing efforts to the larger producing wells makes sense.

After the presentation, Board members developed a list of concerns about the Partridge St. PS.

- It's one of the older wells and a relatively small water producer,
- Its proximity to several homes which make it susceptible to various forms of contamination,
- The aquifer that this well draws from maybe in the pathway of the plume from the McNeil dump,
- The PS has been offline for several years without any apparent concern from the Water Department about meeting demand.

### **Methods to remove PFAS**

The presentation described the current technologies for removing PFAS such as granular activated carbon (GAC) and ion exchange. One emerging technology is alternative adsorption media which has some advantages over GAC media and ion exchange. Reverse osmosis (RO) was also mentioned however it removes all compounds even those that are desirable. Since RO is expensive and complicated to operate, it is an unlikely choice.

### **PFAS Testing Update**

The anticipated PFAS6 MCL of 4 ppt would make only Evergreen and Tremont wells compliant with the future PFAS6 limit. Mayflower and Damon, the other large producers, tested slightly above the future limit at 4.85 ppt and 6.16 ppt respectively.

### **Sample Project Schedule**

RT presented an implementation schedule for PFAS removal according to the impacts on pressure zones. Partridge PS and Dept PS are the initial projects in the schedule as recommended in the Water System Master Plan.

A question arose about the location of the pressure zones. Generally, the Low Pressure Zone (LPZ) serves the section of Duxbury east of Route 3 and contains most of its residents. The High Pressure Zone (HPZ) is west of Route 3. Generally the HPZ contains homes at higher elevations than the LPZ.

RT's sample project schedule shows design and permitting work starting this year at Partridge and Depot/Tremont. Improvements would be in place by the end of 2025 for Partridge and the middle of 2026 for Depot/Tremont. The projects at Mayflower, Damon and Evergreen would be done to minimize the impact of the system. This is a very preliminary schedule taking about 7 years to complete. The high level cost is between 75 to 100 million for all the projects.

### **Updates from DPW and Water Department**

Mark Cloud provided the Board with revised specifications for maintenance improvements in the distribution system. Bo noticed a change in piping materials from the previous specs and agreed that this change appears reasonable.

The Board also reviewed the spreadsheet comparing various water rates in neighboring towns. Mark will look into adding charges for services that other towns currently charge for.

The Water Department has emergency generators at Evergreen and Damon. It appears that more locations should be added to this list.

No updates for: Staffing, 3M tapes, Water rate study, and the Wright Pierce contract.

### **To do list**

- Find out whether ARPA funds can be diverted to other locations
- Request information on the status of investigations into the McNeil Dump aquifer and the plume
- Provide the Selectboard with findings and recommend a course of action

**Next meeting - October 2, 2023**      The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM