



HARVARD WATER - SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2022
Virtual Meeting Held in accordance with Governors Executive Order Suspending
Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Cindy Russo, Chair *Kyle Hedrick* *Richard Maiore*

Present: Cindy Russo, Chair, Kyle Hedrick, Commissioner, Rick Maiore, Commissioner, Tim Bragan, Town Administrator, Tim Kilhart, DPW Director.

From Tighe and Bond: Tom Mahanna, Mary Danielson, and April Locke.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

1. Tom Mahanna Reported as follows regarding the status of the well improvements: We are currently operating a temporary emergency chlorination system. This is manually operated and tested to provide a basic level of treatment but does not meet 4-Log. DEP will continue to require us to chlorinate and will require that we demonstrate that we can meet 4-Log and have an automatic system before we are allowed to put Well 02 on line. We can't continue to operate as we are now. It is an emergency system. It also is risky to operate only one well, with no redundancy in the system.

2. Tighe and Bond memo suggests two Alternatives. Tom described Alternative #1: The water main improvements completed by RH White allow contact time to meet 4-Log requirements. We will need to do the work described as Alternative #1 in Tom's memo before DEP will allow us to use Well 02. That work is a chlorine analyzer and automatic chlorination but it is not a tablet system. It upgrades what we have now with chlorine analyzer, meets 4 Log, monitors residual levels, and is fully automatic. Alternative #1 does not include a tablet system; still uses liquid chlorine. It does meet current requirements from DEP. All they care about is that we have automatic chlorination with 4-log.

3. Tighe and Bond met with DEP about 2 weeks ago to provide an update update.

4. Tighe and Bond requested and received a Change Order proposal from RH White to do a version of Alternative #1 that included tablet chlorination, chlorine analyzer and electrical upgrades. A tablet system is asier to operate and doesn't tablet form of chlorine does not degrade (liquid does).

The price proposed was \$85,000. For purpose of discussion, this was referred to as "Alternative #1A."

5. Tom then discussed Alternative #2 which includes: A building, water softening, PFAS treatment, and an adequate facility in place to respond to any change in water quality.

Water Softening – So far chlorination hasn't caused major disruptions in our system. Note – Current level of chlorination is lower than it will be with new system.

PFAS – state limit on PFAS is 20. Well 5 PFAS levels have been: 15, 11.25, 9.48, 10, 7.68. Well 2 highest PFAS level has been 6+/- . Most recent read is non-detect. Note that these can be blended when both wells are used. Two back to back tests exceeding 20 will require a follow up. DEP would work with us to develop a plan.

6. There was some discussion of future operating costs. Currently use a D1 operator. Alternative #1 will require a T1 operator, because adding treatment. Alternative #2 will require at least one T2 operator. There will also be costs for replacement of filters/media.

7. There was a discussion of whether Alternative #1 investment would be lost if we later pursued Alternative #2. Tom said that Alternative #1 equipment we purchase could be relocated if we then proceeded with Alternative #2, or we could elect to keep it in the vault. Not everything would be re-usable. The tablet system (Alternative #1A) is a skid-mounted system which would be easy to relocate in a new facility.

8. Tom recommends that we begin the process of applying for a 2% 20-year loan to fund Alternative #2 through the SRF program. Applying is not a commitment and we have invested in a lot of engineering work that could be used in the application. This is the procedure:

i. Application filed by August 2022. Tom will get us an estimate of costs for Tighe and Bond to prepare application. Typical cost is \$8,000-\$10,000. They have a lot of information on our system so might be lower in our case.

ii. February 2023 (approximately), we would learn if we made it onto the priority list.

iii. Town Meeting Vote approval of borrowing by June 2023.

iv. Second Round filing October 2023. This is a more detailed application that includes 75% plans. This would be rolled into the design contract. At this time, the design phase is currently not included in the SRF program, but Tom says they are starting to reconsider. So far there has been no commitment.

v. Approval early 2024.

vi. Facility completion 2025.

9. Tom will get us a price to proceed with Alternative 1A.

10. The following opinions were expressed. Tim Bragan recommended that we proceed with Alternative #1A now and apply for Alternative #2 funding as it will have to be done in the future. Tim Kilhart and Rick generally agreed. Kyle expressed concern on spending so much money on the system, and the cost impact on the residential users. without considering connecting to Devens. Cindy agreed that connection to Devens should be considered as an alternative.

The Commission agreed to postpone action until the next meeting, scheduled for February 23, in order to consider the various options.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.