



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

### **WATER & SEWER COMMISSION**

January 3, 2023

LWVM Observer – Steven Levy

Staff present: Amy McHugh, Superintendent, Bethany Spangler, Assistant Superintendent and Dianne Rodgers, Office Manager

Commissioners present: F. Carlton Siegel, Chair. Members: Gregory Bates, Thomas Carroll, Thomas L. Murray, Barton Hyte

The meeting started on time at 7:00 pm.

December 6, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved.

Superintendent's water report: Burkes Water Storage Tank has been performing well

This is a Water license renewal year. More people are taking classes. Two small leaks were found and fixed. Costs of water breaks due to a contractor not following Dig Safe requirements . (Dig Safe® is a not-for-profit clearinghouse that notifies participating utility companies of your plans to dig.) are still under legal counsel review.

Superintendent's sewer report: Impeller for Kenneth Sewer Pump Station has been shipped. This impeller is a replacement for an impeller sent with incorrect rotation. The Shorewood Station Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) were installed. Contract 184 upgrade to electrical grid connections will also allow for better security, and safety, even in emergencies.

We recently had an eleven-foot tide and a 2 ft storm surge The climate resistance wall at Fort Sewell performed as designed. Water did splash over, but no water entered Wet Well or came in contact with the Station. Lobster traps, kayaks and other items were strewn around the area. People should be encouraged to secure their items as they can obstruct emergency procedures.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Notification Plan as required by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), received comments from DEP. In economic

justice areas, the notification in the language associated with that area needs to be given. Spanish and Creole translations should be added to plan in the event that notification needs to be sent to Salem, MA. Swampscott Board of Health should be added to notification plan. Resump.org is the web page where Marblehead notifications will be posted. (RESUMP is a public outreach and education program sponsored by the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission.)

The NEWEA, New England Water Environment Association, will be having a conference. The annual conference will be held January 23rd through 25th. The technical programs and vendor displays are interesting.

Superintendent's Administrative update: Reminders were sent to customers that had balances over 180 days, (pink "tags" are put on the door). As a result, many people paid overdue bills. A few residents noted that they did not get the bill which comes quarterly. Most incidents of this kind were due to incomplete Real Estate Transfers. Only two properties have no water service due to non-payment. Both properties are vacant.

MWRA Report: Small leak was detected on upper northern high transmission line. It was encased in concrete. Repair work is ongoing.

SESD Report: A Consultant for Peabody has reached out to board members to discuss air rights. No meeting has been set with the Marblehead Representative yet.

NSCAP (North Shore Community Action Program), will help economically disadvantaged people with their water bills, if they qualify. The Commission would have to sign a contract. The program representative stated there is no liability on the town. The Commission requested confirmation from legal counsel before the February meeting.

The new Glover Residences at Vinnin Square are getting water and sewer services from Swampscott even though they are located in Marblehead. The bills should be coming from Swampscott for the entire complex. There will be a meeting between the Swampscott and Marblehead Department Heads.

Warrants for Town Meeting were reviewed and approved. MWRA (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority) Local Assistance Program which is zero interest for ten years, was included in the Warrant review .

Preliminary FY24 Budgets for Water and Sewer Departments were reviewed. There was discussion of the computer budget line item. The new Town Server is still experiencing technical issues. This has delayed the installation

of a GIS (Global Information System) Server and upgrading of all software associated. The movement of data to the new GIS server and training are included in the draft budgets.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm. Next Water and Sewer Commission meeting will be at 7 P.M., Tuesday February 7, 2023.