



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION** – December 5, 2023  
LWVM Observer – Steven Levy

Staff present: Amy McHugh, Superintendent; Bethany Spangler, Assistant Superintendent; Dianne Rodgers, Office Manager. Commissioners present: F. Carlton Siegel, Chair. Members: Gregory Bates, Thomas L. Murray and Barton Hyte. Absent: Thomas Carroll

The minutes from 11/07/23 were approved.

**Superintendent Water Report:** Discussion of water samples was moved to next meeting because both samplers were out with COVID. The water tank is due for annual inspection this Thursday. It will be only external. In 2024, we should have searchable documents that service lines have documented lead goosenecks. (Lead goosenecks are flexible pipe material that was used to connect rigid lines.) Most goosenecks have already been removed. They are finding the remaining goosenecks by reviewing service cards, drawings and notes on the cards to show if lead sections or galvanized pipes were used. The Green Street project is running. The GIS server is running.

They did not have audited financial values for the year 2022 at the time of Town Meeting last year. They used an educated guess of \$600k for the Water Construction Article. It turned out to be conservative. We got \$1.4 million retained earnings from the audit. There could be an account opened where we can put 5% of retained earnings. This would give the Commission financial stability account for emergency or unexpected repairs.

**Loring Avenue update:** Amy needs to get pictures for areas that have been encroached upon. They have to get permission to get pictures of Thompson Meadow Land. They have submitted costs for pipeline replacement from the Loring Ave Pump Station to get approval for the MWRA Assistance Loan.

**Superintendent Report, Sewer:** The Green Street pump station is up and running. Some alarms were coded as the water department instead of the sewer department. The majority are running ok. The new GIS server is up. The database will be moved from the old server to the new server. Sewer documents are uploaded and linked to assets in GIS. The documents pop up when clicked. The water documents are not as complete as the sewer documents.

**Superintendent Report, Administration:** The GIS 911 dashboard is impressive. It will be helpful, but it needs to be tested to stop everyone from running to fix the same problem. When there is a water break, the Water and Sewer GIS system will tell what valves to turn. Work is being done to import data.

Many vacuum trucks have been evaluated. Aquatec is one of the brands they are considering. Maintenance is important. One company is local. Features are another way of evaluating. They will spend about \$700k on the truck. One truck is all hydraulic. Are they going to do as much sewer cleaning now that they are lining the pipes? They are going to have this truck for 20 years, so it is a big decision.

Chairman, F. Carlton Siegel, has been honored with a F. Carlton Siegel day on March 15, 2023 by the board of selectmen.

There are only 2 accounts on the 270-day list. They have collected 75% owed on the 180-day list. There were 70 accounts on the 180-day list. The department received a complimentary letter about water service received from water employees.

**Report, MWRA:** Usage went down.

**Report, SESD (South Essex Sewer District):** At the open house, the video shows how big the structures are. The open house was well attended. Unreserved fund money can be used but stays with SESD. When the pipe under the harbor failed, they were able to complete a temporary fix of the problem without raising the rates. They could use the money for other projects. Or for an SEED project

A 200-ton transformer is coming to Marblehead. CDM Smith, an engineering consulting firm, will complete a peer review on the proposed protection of the 36-inch Force Main (sewer pipe). CDM will also provide emergency repair plans and concepts on how to replace the whole Force main. It is an SESD asset. It's only four feet deep. Any work proposed will go into the capital improvement plan.

Request for abatements: At 21 Dartmouth Road no water entered the sewer. Credit for sewer charges was not used. We used previous usage to calculate an abatement of \$770. 1 Widger Road: The town of Marblehead owns this building. The abatement is yet to be determined.

**Sewer Deduct Policy:** At the last meeting they handed out a policy. 20-year old sewer deduct meters must be replaced to remain compliant. Because there is a turnover in Real Estate, they are completing the sewer deduct replacement program as part of Real Estate Transfer and are not using a mandate. The final policy will be voted on in January 2024. A motion was made and passed to move ahead with the new policy. A Meter Reading request form revision will require a larger form. They will work with the real estate people.

**Contract MWSC 2023-001.** Support service for GIS Server implementation and configuration Change Order - contract extension. This is a no cost change. They have to find out if it is an amendment or a change order. This will extend the GIS review contract to June 30th 2024. F. Carlton Siegel can sign the order.

The next Water and Sewer Commission meeting will be at 7 PM on Tuesday January 2, 2024. The meeting ended at 8:24 PM.