

**Town of Lincoln
Water Commission Meeting
February 8, 2023**

Members Present:

**Kenneth Booth, Chairman
Julie Labreche
Edward Fox
Louis Long
Abigail Altabef**

Water Commission Staff:

**Robert A. Anderson Jr., P.E. Chief Engineer/ Superintendent
Lewis A. Prescott III, Assistant Superintendent
Anna Nascimento, Administrative Assistant
Mark Hartman, Representing Town Solicitor**

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Ken Booth.

Public Comment

John Kocon of 85 Smith St. was present to discuss the Smith St. /Oakwood Ave. Water pipes. They have had multiple water line breaks and the roads are actually now much damaged due to them.

They are concerned about the quality of their drinking water, and he was able to provide pictures of the conditions of the water in his home.

The Water Department has prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP), which is the process of preparing to go out to bid for the engineering of that area as well as other streets in the area. The lines would be dug up and replaced with new cast iron lines.

The discoloration of the water coming into homes in the area is due to a buildup of iron oxide within the original cast iron pipes, which should not occur with the newly installed pipes.

The water supply comes from Providence, which also does not have a high mineral content such as the wells used in prior times.

The streets will then be repaved from curb to curb.

The RFP will be going out as soon as possible, is only to begin the design services of the replacement of 7,000 feet of pipe in the Smith St. area including other streets such as Cabot St. and Read Ave.

The main concentration of the construction would probably begin in the spring of 2024.

Once the bid is awarded for the completion of the work, that contractor would give a more detailed plan and outline of when the work could be expected to be completed.

There may be a delay in the availability of the pipe material of 6 months or more, which the Town will discuss with the consultant that it may possibly be ordered ahead and ready for when the project is set to start. The funding is in place already.

There will also need to be a coordination with the Department of Public Works to pave the roads once the water lines are in.

Jacqueline Lachapelle of 91 Smith St. noted that while she has not had a problem yet with the quality of water coming out of the pipes in her home, she wondered what to do if that were to happen.

She was advised to call the Water Department and that they would come out and aerate and flush them out.

Patty McKay of 52 Smith St. wanted to know if it was all of Smith St. that was to have the new water lines done.

The Superintendent believes that it was a section from Reservoir Ave. down to the new section of pipe that was already done.

Her property is at the end of the section of old pipe, and it is believed that it would be part of this new plan.

Samantha Cole of 500 Great Rd. was present, and noted that there has been a lot of sediment in her water recently (both hot and cold). She wanted to know if they would be able to put some kind of a house filter on to prevent this. She was advised to call to the Water Department and have them come out and evaluate it. She could choose to do a house filter of her own expense as a homeowner.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Capital Accounts – January, 2023

Correspondence

News Articles

Minutes

Ken Booth made a motion, seconded by Ed Fox, to postpone the approval of the minutes of January 11th and 17th pending further review and edits.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Julie Labreche made a motion, seconded by Ed Fox, to approve the remaining Consent Agenda.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Superintendent's Report of Daily Activity – January, 2023

Administrative – Project Management

a) Water Rate (Cost of Services) Study

The Town recently engaged B & E Consulting in an agreement for their services.

They have met with them to discuss the scope of work and goals, and it is an ongoing discussion.

The contract is for 90 days.

If there is an extra work warranted beyond the scope of work, the Water Department would discuss that at that time.

b) Quinnville Well Site Remediation

AECOM has completed all of their pump removal, demolition and capping work at the well sites in December.

DEM has approved access to the Bikeway in order for the Water Commission to complete cleanup, which will occur sometime in the spring.

c) SmartLink/AT & T Wireless

Steve Antonucci, with the Town Solicitor's Department, has been the one in contact and reviewing the lease agreement, and has given information to the Water Superintendent for review and comments.

One of the conditions of the lease is soil condition, and the Town will need to do some testing to determine whether remediation will be necessary to meet that condition.

d) Residual Chlorine Study/Chlorine Injection Assessment

A meeting with Pare Engineering is to be scheduled.

They are still reviewing costs and possible sites.

e) RI Water Resources Board (RIWRB)

No new activity to report.

f) RIDOH Clean water Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan

No new activity to report.

g) RIDOT School St. Water Main Project

The C & M (Construction and Maintenance) Agreement has been executed by the Town and the Water Department as of January 23rd. The Town is still waiting for RIDOT to return their signed copy of the agreement to make it official.

The next step would be to consult with RIDOT on the placement of the water main.

h) Smith St./Saylesville Water Main Improvements

Was discussed during Public Comment.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being developed for the engineering of this project, which will be distributed sometime in February through the MPA process.

Administrative – Personnel

Job Announcement

The vacant Clerk position has been advertised. They have received 44 resumes, which they did narrow down to about 13 of interest. About 6 have withdrawn, so about 8 on the short list. There are about 2 or 3 more interviews to complete.

Balance Sheet – Expenditure and Revenue Report – January, 2023

Ed Fox made a motion, seconded by Julie Labreche to accept the Balance Sheet.

It was noted that expenditures seems to be comfortably on track with about 58% of the budget expended for the year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Abigail Altabef made a motion, seconded by Lou Long, to send the Balance Sheet to the Finance Director.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Account Balance Report – January, 2023

Julie Labreche made a motion, seconded by Lou Long, to accept the Account Balance Report.

There is one outstanding account where they have had to place a lien on the property.

The owners received the certified letter, but did not respond with payment.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Direct Payments and Payables – January, 2023

Lou Long made a motion, seconded by Julie Labreche, to accept the Direct Payments and Payables.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Abatements

Julie Labreche made a motion, seconded by Lou Long, to accept abatements in the amount of \$36,000.25

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business at the time.

New Business

Commission Meeting Clerk

The current Recording Secretary, Candice Larson, does unfortunately have to step down due to prior commitments.

The Water Commission welcomes Robin DiMario, Town Employee with Recording Secretary Experience, as the new Recording Secretary going forward.

Leak Detection Program

The Water Commission is looking at some more concentrated leak detection methods as part of the water rate study.

There could be things like significant joint leaks that are costing the Water Commission money within the 700 million gallons that the Town gets in from Providence Water.

There is a lot of new technology in leak detection, and it might be done through consultants or with in-house staffing.

It may be better to hire an outside service, as it would require a lot of equipment and training to do in-house. Most water systems don't do it in-house for those reasons.

Claims

There were no claims at the time.

Abigail Altabef asked if there was any more discussion about integrating some Town Services with the Water Department, such as Information Technologies.

This has not been formally discussed yet.

Public Comment

Mike Labossiere of 76 Smith St. wanted to double check that the water mains would be replaced before the roads are paved so that they would not have to be dug up once they are done.

The Water Commission discussed why it will take possibly until the spring of 2024 to do the Smith St. project. It will ultimately depend on the contractor chosen and material availability. The funding is available, and the Town Council and Town Administrator are in support.

He just wanted it known that the residents that are dealing with it on a regular basis would like it done as soon as possible.

Patty McKay of 52 Smith St. noted that there have been 74 patches for water breaks within a half mile on the road, not including any gas work.

Adjourn

Ed Fox made a motion, seconded by Abigail Altabef, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.