

**OCEAN PINES SERVICE AREA  
WATER AND WASTEWATER  
Advisory Board Meeting  
WWTP Operations Center  
Tuesday, August 13, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

**Present:**        **Water and Wastewater Advisory Board**  
Fred Stiehl, Jim Spicknall, Jack Collins, Will Gabeler  
                 **Worcester County Public Works**  
Dallas Baker  
                 **Worcester County Public Works - Water and Wastewater Division**  
Tony Fascelli, Meg Etzler  
                 **Worcester County Treasurer**  
Quinn Dittrich

Fred called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Jack had some suggestions for the minutes of our June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. In the section where we have the Financial Update, if we communicate with Josh Davis, the Director of the Ocean Pines Marketing and Public Relations Department, Josh will share the information with homeowners. Jack suggests that we include this information in the minutes and suggests that instead of noting “Discussion was held” we instead state, “Coordination with Ocean Pines Marketing and Public Relations Department”. This proved successful with Josh Davis being the contact. Fred asked if the Board agreed with this addition, and it was approved by the Board. With no further comments Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Will seconded the motion.

**Water Production**

We have been having some tripping and disruption problems with the wells lately. On the surface the problems seem unrelated, but with further investigation it was noted it was all electrical problems. We are in the process of trying to figure out what is going on. We had four to five wells go out with electrical issues. We are waiting for a local engineering firm to come out and assess our equipment. We have also put data loggers on all five of the wells to monitor the incoming power supply. Four of the five wells now have portable air conditioners to help with temperature control, which was a factor in one of them. The problem is not with the wells but with the equipment above ground. Discussion was held.

- The alarms are installed on the South Tower and the video recorder is mounted.

**Water Distribution (6/11/24-present)**

- We had 18 new water services and 52 water leak repairs.

As of July 1st we are in Fiscal Year 25. The 2025 Capital projects are:

- Radio read meters
- Blue tubing replacement
- Greater Ocean Pines Service Area Master Plan

## **Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- Dallas referred to the Bay Restoration Fee Criteria. Our YTD average is 2.61 for Nitrogen and 0.23 for Phosphorus. The Board asked for information regarding the average annual flows and Dallas referenced the figures from 2019 to 2023, and the total for 2024 to date.
- Storage lagoon – We are still awaiting approval from MDE. We received comments back that the project does not impact wetlands. We discovered a gas main located in the pond berm. This will need to be removed before expansion work begins. We can save money by doing the trench work ourselves before the gas company comes in to do the work.
- Belt filter press – Soil borings are completed. Design to be submitted this month. Dallas shared his concern and frustration with the lack of progress with DBF and this project.
- Volume of sewage hauled from Riddle Farm WWTP – 3594,000 gallons from April 6, 2024 thru July 27, 2024.
- FY24 capital equipment list:
  - a. The UV disinfection rehab – installation is ongoing.
- FY 25 capital projects
  - i. Drying bed repairs
  - ii. Oxidation treatment tank cleaning
  - iii. Pond revisions
  - iv. Replace mixer for FET No. 1

## **Wastewater Collections (6/11/24) to present)**

- One sanitary sewer overflow – (7/3/24) 1204 Ocean Parkway, 1000 gallons. Some ran into Manklin Creek, approximately 500 feet downstream from the break.
- We replaced 8 household tanks (2 plastic, 4 fiberglass, 1 concrete); 1 new install (fiberglass)
- Smoke testing on hold until the fall.
- FY25 Capital projects
  - i. Bush pumps
  - ii. Fiberglass vacuum tanks
  - iii. Lift Station T – pump replacement
  - iv. Receiving tank station I

## **Construction Projects (Total EDUs)**

- Triple Crown -Phase II (30) approved. Water 80% done; haven't started sewer.
- Refuge at Windmill Creek – (90) pump station startup complete. Small punch list items to be completed.
- AGH is done. Waiting for the release of liens – Received bill of sale on Friday, 8/9/24.
- Gum Point Road – (15 sewer) 5 EDUs sold. No change since 06/11/24 meeting.
- St. Martins by the Bay – (58 water). Design kick-off meeting 7/12/24, 30% design due 9/12/24.
- River Run Townhouses – (56 water) – No change from 06/11/24 meeting.
- River Run Single Family homes (38) – sewer is 60% done, and 90% of water is completed. Pump station has not yet started. It was noted that sewer services are not under Ocean Pines.

## **Major Changes to Ocean Pines WWTP Discharge permit.**

MDE has given us a draft of our new permit. Currently it is in the public comment phase. It will take about 3 months for them to get us the new permit and once the permit is in effect we have roughly 3 months to address the changes. These changes are going to be expensive. The additional testing requirements are expensive. For example, the work order system they are suggesting is approximately \$20,000 for the software. Most of these will be bid here. These costs were not included in our 2025 budget and we will ask the Commissioners how to proceed. We are already working on some of these changes. Dallas shared he hopes to have answers to our questions, explanations for some of the changes, and the costs in the next three months.

## **Financial Update**

Quinn shared and referenced the Balance Sheet through 06/30/24. He explained the changes in the Cash and Accounts Receivable figures and offered a review of the other figures on the Balance Sheet. He shared the Income Statement. Rates went up about 6% this year. He referenced the Domestic, Commercial Water and Sewer figures and noted they were in line with expectations. Quinn offered clarification and explanation on the Balance Sheet and Income Statement questions from the Board and Staff.

## **General Discussion**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. With no further business Jim made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Will. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Etzler  
Administrative Assistant