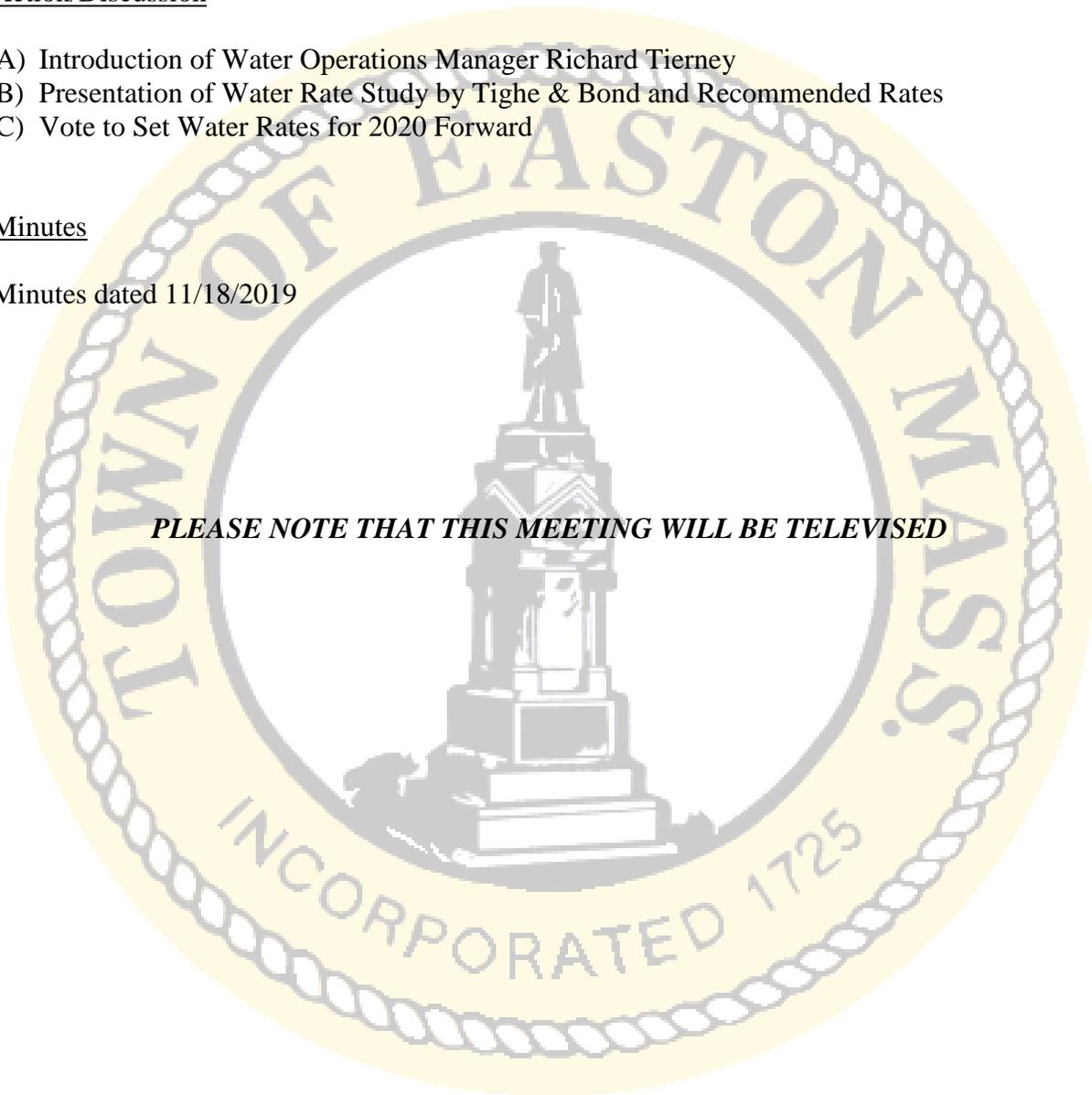


Action/Discussion

- A) Introduction of Water Operations Manager Richard Tierney
- B) Presentation of Water Rate Study by Tighe & Bond and Recommended Rates
- C) Vote to Set Water Rates for 2020 Forward

Minutes

Minutes dated 11/18/2019



PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE TELEVISED

NAME OF PUBLIC BODY: WATER COMMISSIONERS

DAY AND DATE OF MEETING: 1/27/2020 6:00 PM

LOCATION OF MEETING:

COLLEEN A. CORONA BOARD ROOM, TOWN HALL, 1ST FLOOR, 136 ELM STREET
EASTON MA 02356

POSTED BY CLERK'S OFFICE:

**MEETING POSTING
& AGENDA
TOWN OF EASTON**

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 18-25
All meeting notices and agenda must be filed
and time stamped in the Town Clerk's Office
and posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting
(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)

Water Commissioners
Agenda Notes
January 27, 2020
6:00 PM

Action/Discussion

A) Introduction of Water Operations Manager Richard Tierney

In preparation for the retirement of Operations Manager Jack Marsh, following forty years of service to Easton, I am pleased to introduce Easton’s next Water Operations Manager Richard Tierney. Mr. Tierney brings decades of water works experience to Easton, including local and regional water systems, most recently as the Superintendent of Plymouth Water – one of the larger municipal systems in the area. He is a US Army and Mass. Army National Guard veteran as well as a licensed apprentice plumber. Mr. Tierney will be present for a brief introduction to the Commission.

**B) Presentation of Water Rate Study by Tighe & Bond and Recommended Rates and;
 C) Vote to Set Water Rates for 2020 Forward**

The Commission must, from time to time, consider water rate increases to support the ongoing operation and maintenance, as well as future capital planning, of our Water Division and public water system. It is good practice to conduct rate studies to examine the fiscal health of the water enterprise fund, its ability to meet current operating needs, and its future ability to meet planned capital expenditures. In anticipation of significant capital projects, including a planned \$12M +/- Green Sand Filter Water Treatment Plant for Iron and Manganese for wells 3, 5 and 7, as well as proactive engineering services for possible PFAS treatment, DPW commissioned a rate study with Tighe & Bond.

Michael J. Schrader, PE, of Tighe & Bond will be in attendance to provide the Commission with a presentation summarizing the rate study and make recommendations on new water rates moving forward. Due to the significant capital investments in our future, I recommend a multi-year rate increase effective on calendar year bases each January as follows: 2020 (15 percent), 2021 (10 percent), 2022 (12 percent). A summary of the proposed rate increases for 2020-22 is shown below (beginning in the column labeled FY21).

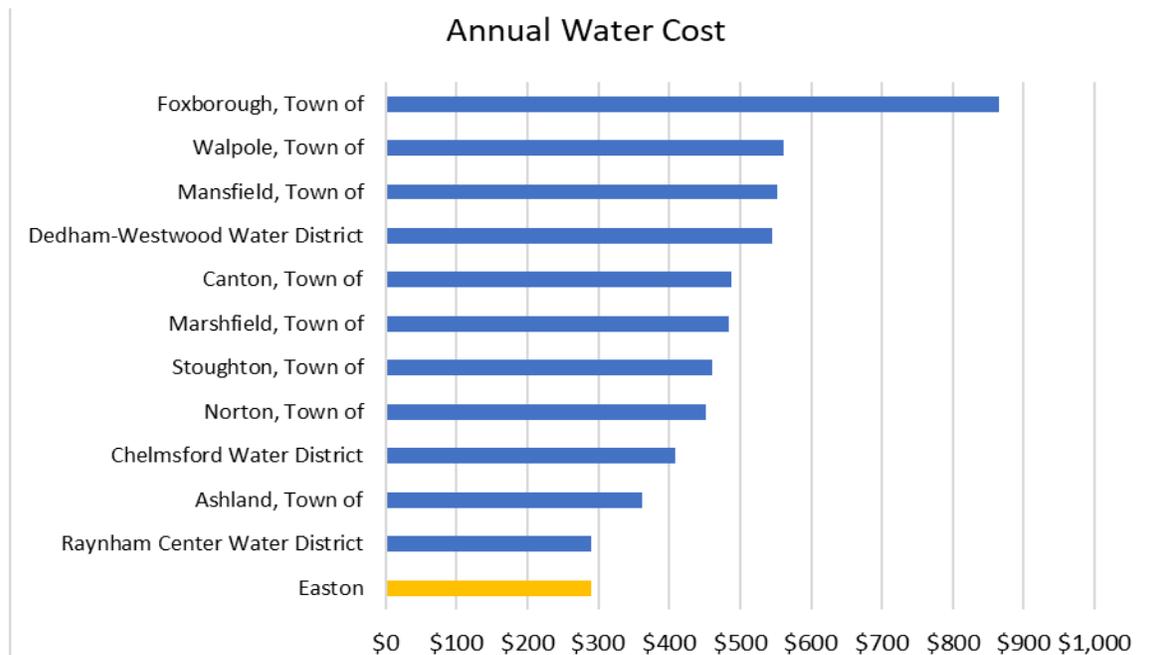
Description	Type	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
5/8"	Quarterly Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$17.25	\$18.98	\$21.25
3/4"	Quarterly Fee	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$18.40	\$20.24	\$22.67
1"	Quarterly Fee	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$21.85	\$24.04	\$26.92
1.5"	Quarterly Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.75	\$31.63	\$35.42
2"	Quarterly Fee	\$38.00	\$38.00	\$43.70	\$48.07	\$53.84
3"	Quarterly Fee	\$133.00	\$133.00	\$152.95	\$168.25	\$188.43
4"	Quarterly Fee	\$169.00	\$169.00	\$194.35	\$213.79	\$239.44
Sprinkler Charge	Quarterly Fee	\$172.00	\$172.00	\$197.80	\$217.58	\$243.69
Tier 1	Usage	\$3.29	\$3.29	\$3.78	\$4.16	\$4.66
Tier 2	Usage	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.60	\$5.06	\$5.67
Tier 3	Usage	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.75	\$6.33	\$7.08

A summary of the annual cost impact of the proposed rates for a low-user (4-person household with 50 GPD use) and high-user (4-person household with 65 GPD use) are shown below to provide context for the propose rates.

Annual Cost - Low Residential User				
Scenario	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23 Series "t"
Proposed	\$300	\$345	\$380	\$425
<i>Increase</i>		\$45	\$35	\$46

Annual Cost - High Residential User				
Scenario	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Proposed	\$372	\$428	\$471	\$527
<i>Increase</i>		\$56	\$43	\$57

As the table above shows, the estimated *annual* impact of the rate change ranges from \$45 – 56 in the first year. This is an increase of roughly \$11.25 to \$14.00 per quarter. In order to provide context to these recommended increases, Tighe & Bond has compiled the average annual water cost for Easton’s comparable communities based on the audit and our own benchmarking. The figures below reflect 2017 water rates.



As you can see, Easton’s existing annual low-use water cost of \$300 is the lowest cost of any of our comparable peers or neighbors. The proposed rate increases would bring Easton’s CY2020 costs for a low-use user to approx. \$345, which would still be the second lowest cost. By the end of the proposed three-year increase, the CY2022 cost for a low-use user would be approx. \$425, which would still rank in the bottom half of our peers *CY2017* rates.

The full technical report is still being finalized and will be sent to the Commission separately (hence the level of detail provided in these notes). DPW Director Dave Field and Operations Managers Jack Marsh and Richard Tierney will be in attendance to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Minutes - General meeting minutes dated 11/18/2019

**Water Commissioner's Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2019**

The Easton Water Commissioners met this evening at the Easton Town Offices, Colleen A. Corona Board Room, 136 Elm Street, Easton, MA.

Present: Dottie Fulginiti, Craig Barger, Thomas Brussard, Charles King, Marc Lamb

Others present: Connor Read, Town Administrator and Michael Blanchard, Assistant Town Administrator

Fulginiti called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and noted this meeting is televised live.

Action/Discussion

A) Presentation and Discussion: Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Update with Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Works

Millie Garcia-Serrano, Kathy Baskin, Jonathan Hobill, and Nancy Bettinger of the Department of Environmental Protection were present.

Jack Marsh, Water Division Operations Manager and David Field, Director of Public Works for the Town of Easton were present.

Read provided background information and a brief explanation on PFAS testing in Easton. He stated that as the Board is aware, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began in January of 2019 the process of rulemaking and establishing regulatory standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water. According to DEP, PFAS “are a family of chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. PFAS are widely used in common consumer products as coatings, on food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, and more.”

DEP is working on setting a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS as studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of certain PFAS may cause a variety of health effects. According to DEP, “scientists and regulators are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS, and MassDEP is following developments in this burgeoning area closely.”

Although this field is evolving rapidly, today, there does not exist a drinking water standard (MCL) for PFAS in Massachusetts. According to the DEP website on PFAS:

The Town of Easton Water Division tested for PFAS in 2014 as part of the USEPA third round of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) and found no detectable presence of PFAS. However, UCMR3 was tested on a part-per-billion standard. Beginning in 2019, Easton has been testing for PFAS under DEP guidance during the installation of Well 4 (beginning in spring) on the part-per-trillion scale. Testing at that time showed PFAS at about 15.5 parts-per-trillion (PPT), which were confirmed with a second test.

Concurrent with this, the Town was preparing and the Board ultimately executed a PILOT study for wells 3, 5, and 7 for the treatment of iron and manganese. We included testing for PFAS in the study as well to be comprehensive in our testing of this developing area, and publicly noted at the time of the contract award that we had already detected PFAS in Easton water. A third sample of Well 4 reported PFAS at 26.7 PPT in August. At that time, the DEP and Town began conducting additional testing of wells.

On September 19 we received sample results of the four wells tested by DEP and the levels of PFAS was found to be 51, 27, 28, and 0 PPT at Well #1, Well #2, Well #4, and Well #6 respectively. The Town

worked with DEP to run confirmation tests of these wells in October and November and received similar results, with the exception of Well # 1 showing a lower level of 38 PPT last week, and Well #2 also showing a lower level of 10 PPT. A full table of initial, confirmatory and average test samples is included in the attached notice.

Millie Garcia-Serrano introduced herself and stated that she served as Massachusetts DEP Regional Director for the Southeast Regional office. She thanked the Board and Water Commissioners for inviting the DEP to Easton. She spoke of PFAS as a southeast region issue and not just an Easton issue, it is across the commonwealth and nationwide territories.

Garcia-Serrano introduced Kathy Baskin, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources, John Hobill, Bureau of Water Resources, and Nancy Bettinger, Risk Analysis Group, Office of Research and Standard of the Department of Public Health.

Baskin and Hobill then provided the Board with a presentation and update on Per and Poly Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Drinking Water. (See attachment)

Fulginiti summarized the presentation and stated that Easton had two wells that tested higher than 20 PPT, but lower than the 70 PPT. We are within the current standards until it changes to 20 PPT, two of Easton's wells will be over the regulated level. She asked about the contamination sites and hazardous waste, what are the ideas when those are discovered in Massachusetts, who pays for that and what happens then.

Garcia-Serrano explained that their key goal is to ensure that we are protective of public and private wells that have this detection. The Massachusetts contingency plan has the Bureau of Waste site cleanup based in Boston and with regional offices. Once identified in either municipal, public or private water supplies, then they conduct fact findings and identify who is the responsible party. Massachusetts DEP has issued notices of responsibilities to parties who may be liable for the cleanup, DEP then monitors and ensures they are performing site clean ups and investigations.

The Select Board discussed PFAS, Easton's water supply and groundwater, sampling results, MassDEP standards guidelines, regulatory status, health risks, and public awareness and notification.

Kyla Bennett introduced herself and stated she lived at 2 Chickadee Lane, Easton, MA and is the Director of Science Policy for New England's Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. She asked for assurance from DEP officials that the new standards would be released by year's end, towns are clamoring for money and those town's will need filtration systems and will need the DEP's help.

Valerie Frank introduced herself and stated she lived at 158 Elm Street, Easton, MA. She spoke of the school's turf field and how the Select Board felt about that.

Fulginiti stated that she does not want to get off topic.

Meghan Ganshirt of 11 Wagon Wheel Drive, Easton, MA introduced herself and asked if the schools should be closing bubblers and adding filtered water stations.

Fulginiti stated it is recommended everyone go on the websites to do some research. She noted that there are things you can change in your own personal life to get a head of this. We cannot fix it here if the other communities are not participating.

Read explained that they plan to continue working with DEP and conducting necessary testing, and will post all the testing on Easton's website, make options available to those concerned, offer a rebate program for residents to purchase and install an in-home filter capable of removing PFAS. The town will provide a one-time, water-bill rebate of up to \$75 to offset the cost of purchasing a NSF certified filter.

Fulginiti stated that as a public body we can be advocating to our legislatures to stop the manufacturing process that allows for PFAS to be involved in the first place.

Stephanie Patrick 2 Knollwood Street, Easton, MA introduced herself and asked about putting in refilling stations in the schools with a filtration system, in the interim, for people to use with reusable bottles.

Mark Carpentier, Adams Street, Easton introduced himself and asked how do we stop the use of these products, and what type of a lifecycle can we expect.

Garcia-Serrano stated that there is always litigation happening outside the DEP offices. She explained that awareness is the number one issue, no exposure no risk, having a dialogue, a movie in theatres raising awareness. She stated that the best advocate is conversation, knowledge, and creating that awareness.

The Board thanked the DPW and Water Department, Connor's team, and the public. Fulginiti asked that everyone keep the questions coming, the Board will aggregate them, and put everything on the website.

Motion: Barger **Second:** Brussard

Vote: unanimous to approve the meeting minutes from 4/24/2017

Motion: Brussard **Second:** Barger

Vote: unanimous to approve the meeting minutes from 4/8/2019

Motion: Barger **Second:** Brussard

Vote: unanimous to adjourn at 7:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,
Lisa Florio

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:
Agenda Notes
PFAS Public Notice and Information - Easton
MassDEP Presentation
General minutes 4/24/2017
General minutes 4/8/2019