

TRI TOWN BOARD
of Water Commissioners
Braintree, Holbrook, Randolph

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18 2023
Johnson Chamber - Braintree Town Hall

Present: Mayor Charles C. Kokoros, Chair, Town of Braintree, Bill Alexopoulos, Town of Randolph.

In attendance: Crystal Huff, Helen Gordon, Chris Dapson, Lou Dutton, Steve DeFrancesco, Lorraine See, Jim Arsenault, Brian Howard, Chris Pellitieri, Kate Naughton,

Mayor Kokoros opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mayor Kokoros took roll call attendance –Tri-Town Board of Water Commissioners member present: Mayor Charles Kokoros, William Alexopoulos

**Tri-Town Water Treatment Plant Update:
US Army Corp Update**

Helen Gordon (Environmental Partners) reminded all that monthly project updates are posted on the Town of Braintree website monthly.

Ms. Gordon continued that they have been working on six-week schedule. In the process of working on the tribal excavation work that was approved to move forward under the construction of the Corps of Engineers permit. The Water Treatment plant and the tunnel are the two areas that were left that needed to be excavated under archeological oversight and tribal oversight.

It was indicated that the work shouldn't take any longer than four weeks. The work was started last Monday and five of the eight lanes are completed. It is anticipated that the work will be done and the removal of the excavation by the end of this week. There are a few areas, upland areas ,that the archeologists have identified, they will go back and do some hand digging just to double check the areas. Some artifacts have been found. Nothing large and nothing of note at this time. The the is to finish the excavation this week, and then the spoils will be moved to another location on the site and then seeded. The four weeks will be more than enough time for us to get all that done.

There won't be any tribal oversight once the final excavating by hand gets done.

Ms. Gordon continued that they are in the process of doing test pits right now on King Hill Road at the access location at the gate for identifying the existing utilities that are there. They will tie into the sewer and the plan for mass excavation for the sewer work and installation of the sewer is May 1st.

The mass excavation on the overall project site will start May 8th.

Mayor Kokoros questioned when building permits would be pulled.

Eric Dapson believes that Walsh was working on the permits two weeks ago.

Ms. Gordon updated that they are still running within the budget. There is a contingency of the 4.895 million and we have the, that is just for the treatment plant. There is also a contingency of 213 ish for the transmission mains that go across the pond. On budget for all of the services at this point in time.

The project is within budget we had a hundred-thousand-line item for that permitting fee. The work that was done previously is 87,000. In relationship to the tribal oversight for this excavation work that is being done now, we are at a point not at week one. There was a two week estimated cost on 3/14 for one hundred and thirty seven, six fifty nine for the tribal oversight, the EP coordination and the PAL under subcontract with us to do the work. The work is being tracked on time and materials based on the board's decision at the last meeting. Once the work is done we will know what that total is. In terms of the costs that we're expending right now, we are tracking a little bit under what we anticipated. Part of the reason is there are three Narragansett tribe representatives and we did have Wampanoag Aquinnah for about three hours. But the other tribe does not have enough people to provide oversight.

Change Order One:

MOTION: a vote to approve change order number one for the Tri-Town Water Plant Project Change Order One for Walsh covers the cost of tribal monitoring through January, 2023 in accordance with the US Army Corps permit, NAE 20 16 0 1 0 5 2 Tri-Town Water District General Permit. The total amount is \$ 87,136.

MOTION: Mr. Alexopoulos

SECOND: Mayor Kokoros

Mayor Kokoros – Yes

Mr. Alexopoulos – Yes

Vote : Unanimous

Ms. Gordon continued that the Change Order be signed by the district chair and then all three town treasurers and then, then it gets submitted MASS DEP that will be considered for reimbursement.

Amendment 6

MOTION: a vote to approve an increase in Environmental Partners contract under extra services work. Number 6 for not to exceed of 87,000 for the PAL archeological lab services to conduct observation and consultation during the excavation as outlined in the US Army Corps permit, NAE 20 16 0 1 0 5 2 Tri-Town Water District General Permit Reverification letter dated March 13th.

Ms. Gordon - And that again is for \$87,000.

MOTION: Mayor Kokoros

SECOND: Mr. Alexopoulos

Mayor Kokoros – Yes

Mr. Alexopoulos – Yes

Vote : Unanimous

Sampling of biosolids discharge

Ms. Gordon reminded all that the MWRA did provide a permit for discharging the biosolids into the sewer. It had some requirements associated with it, one of which is to conduct what they said was a bench top study. But what really needs to be done is a small pilot. If you look at the overall budget there is a line item in there for \$200,000 for that pilot. Aecom is putting together a cost associated with running that pilot. The process equipment will be obtained from SUEZ the vendor the dissolved air flotation unit. There will be a miniature DAF unit then Blueleaf will set the pilot up, run the pilot, take the testing that's needed to see what the level of PFAS in the biosolids will be, put together a report and then it will be submitted to MWRA for them to look at for determination of whether or not we're able to proceed with that discharge. There needs to be a resolution to all of this prior to starting the treatment plant in case lagoons needs to be built. All of this is being dovetailed with the new EPA regulations that are coming out with PFAS on the drinking water end of things, but certainly is pushing the biosolids disposal end of the water nexus. We are waiting for schedules., Aecom is working with SUEZ and BLUELEAF to find out when their schedules will be available. Hopeful it will be done in early fall before it gets cold.

Permitting Schedule:

Ms. Gordon stated that they are tracking all permits, some of them expire before the treatment plants will be complete. All current projects that are under construction got a year extension. The US Corp permit is coming up again in May 5th, 2024 that will require a meeting with the Corp to review the project. There shouldn't be any changes associated with that.

NEPA Permit – No expiration date

Mass, DEP, we have the permit for the project, no expiration date,

Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and Management permit expires 2027

Braintree Conservation Commission expires 5/19/25 – will need extension

Order of conditions in Randolph goes to 2026, so we should be all set.

Mass Historical Commission permit is good till 2024 – extension will be needed.

Combined Chapter 91, license and water quality, is good till 2027.

Master EP Chapter 9 1 is good till 2027.

Variance from Braintree, Board of Appeal – no expiration

The Braintree Planning Board special permit – no expiration

Braintree Stormwater Division goes to the end of 2025.

Tri-Town Water District Organizational Structure Discussion:

Terms and positions voted in June 2022

Ms. Gordon updates:

Braintree term goes to June 27, 2025

Randolph term goes to June 27, 2024

Holbrook Term goes to June 27, 2023

These dates are staggered that there would not be a complete turnover of board every three years.

The term for the Holbrook representative is up in June 27th, 2023. Holbrook would have to identify who their representative would be moving forward.

Mayor Kokoros stated that they check with Holbrook at the next meeting.

Mayor Kokoros continues that positions are listed for the Tri-Town Organizational Structure. One position that is absent is the operation person in charge of operations. There should be a discussion of the operations person should be separate from an administrative person.

Ms. Gordon reminds all that a business plan needs to go into Mass DEP, well before the treatment plan is up and running,

Ms. Gordon will send along samples of positions and descriptions associated with them.

Mayor Kokoros addresses Crystal Huff.

Ms. Huff reminds the board that at some point they will need to hire outside legal counsel.

Future Meeting Date

May 10, 2023 10 a.m.

MOTION to adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Kokoros

SECOND: Mr. Alexopoulos

Mayor Kokoros – Yes

Mr. Alexopoulos – Yes

Vote : Unanimous

Respectfully submitted: Kate Naughton

