FINAL DRAFT

Natick Finance Committee

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 3 of the Town of Natick By-Laws, I attest that the attached copy is the approved copy of the minutes for the following Meeting:

Town of Natick Finance Committee
Meeting Date: April 20, 2021
The minutes were approved through the following action:

Motion:	Approval, as amended
Made by:	Ms. Wollschlager
Seconded by:	Mr. Grome
Vote:	8 – 0 – 0
Date:	September 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Evans

Secretary

Natick Finance Committee

TOWN OF NATICK

Meeting Notice

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 30A, Sections 18-25

Natick Finance Committee

PLACE OF MEETING

Virtual Meeting accessed via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81821030008
Meeting ID: 818 2103 0008 Passcode:
419346 One tap mobile
+19292056099,,81821030008# US
(New York) Dial by your location +1
929 205 6099 US (New York)

DAY, DATE AND TIME

April 20, 2021
at 7:00 PM

Notice to the Public: 1) Finance Committee meetings may be broadcast/recorded by Natick Pegasus. 2) The meeting is an open public meeting and interested parties can attend the meeting. 3) Those seeking to make public comments (for topics not on the agenda or for specific agenda items) are requested to submit their comments in advance, by 2:00 PM on the day of the meeting, to the Chair: phayes.fincom@natickma.org. Comments will be posted on NovusAgenda and read aloud for the proper agenda item. Please keep comments to 350-400 words. 4) The Chat function on Zoom Conferencing will be disabled.

Posted: Wednesday April 14, 2021 5:47 PM

Revised and Posted: April 20, 2021 6:50 PM

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
   a. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence
   b. Advisement of Pegasus Live Broadcast and Recording for On-Demand Viewing
   c. Review of Meeting Agenda and Ordering of Items
2. **Announcements**
3. **Public Comments**
   a. Committee policy & procedures available via this link and also at the meeting location
4. **Meeting Minutes:** Review & Approve Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2021 & April 1, 2021
5. **Old Business**
   a. Possible reconsideration of Article 17 – Capital Improvement
6. **2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Public Hearing**
   a. Article 17 Capital Improvement - New Motion E
7. **Committee and Subcommittee Scheduling and Process**
8. **Committee Discussion (for items not on the agenda)**
9. **Adjourn**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
David Coffey, Member
Dirk Coburn, Member
Jeff DeLuca, Member
Bruce Evans, Secretary
Bill Grome, Member
Todd Gillenwater, Vice-Chairman
Julien LaFleur, Member (arrived 7:05 pm)
Mike Linehan, Member
Richard Pope, Member
Chris Resmini, Member
Jim Scurlock, Member
Linda Wollschlager, Chairperson

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Cathy Coughlin, Member
Jerry Pierce, Member
Phil Rooney, Member

Town Administration

Mr. Jeremy Marsette, Director, DPW
Mr. Bob Rooney, Interim Town Administrator
Mr. John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator, Finance
Mr. James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Linda Wollschlager, Chairperson.

Announcements - None

Public Comments: None

Mr. Linehan moved to open the public hearing on the 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, seconded by Mr. Grome, voted 11 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes

Ms. Wollschlager said Article 17 Motion E is a new motion that is a capital improvement request to address the PFAS water issue. Ms. Wollschlager noted that the Committee first had to vote to reconsider Article 17, then re-affirm its prior votes on Article 17 Motions A-D (on April 1, 2021; all were approved 11 – 0 , and then consider Article 17 Motion E.

Mr. Coffey moved to reconsider Article 17, seconded by Mr. Coburn, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Mr. Linehan moved to re-affirm the Committee's prior vote on Article 17 Motion A-D, seconded by Mr. Evans, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Article 17 Motion E

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $3,000,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of Water Treatment Facility Upgrades shown as item 1 in Table E below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow $3,000,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 & 8, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than $3,000,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

All, or any portion of this amount may be borrowed through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the "Trust"), and in that event, the Selectmen, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, are authorized to execute and deliver any agreements or other documents that may be required by the Trust or the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection.

TABLE E- Motion E - Capital Improvement – 2021 Spring Town Meeting

Item	Request Title	Amount	Funding Sources
1	Water Treatment Facility Upgrades	$ 3,000,000.00	W/S Enterprise Fund Borrowing

Mr. Errickson said that he wanted to publicly thank Mr. Marsette for taking the lead on this, noting that it was a quick turnaround and stated that town fully supports this plan.

Mr. Marsette thanked the Committee for reconvening and reconsidering the capital improvement article. He noted that the PFAS remediation issue has been a very fluid situation and they've done much research, vetted the available information, discussed many different alternatives and scenarios, conducted many site visits to our peer communities, many meetings with the MassDEP and the MWRA, our neighboring communities, and talked to many manufacturers and vendors. Given the importance of this article, and the timeliness, Mr. Marsette appreciated the committee's reconsideration.

Mr. Marsette said the requested funds are to add additional treatment at the Springvale water treatment facility and potentially other facilities (as necessary) if funding is available after this capital improvement. This would help address the emerging PFAS issue and this motion funds water treatment facility upgrades.

Per- and Polyfluroalkyl Substances (PFAS) have been termed "forever" chemicals. They're man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain firefighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, nonstick pans, and in many other industrial processes. They have been banned from production in the United States for the last 30 years, however, they can still be found in some products that are manufactured outside of the country. Recent research suggests that ingestion of PFAS may cause adverse effects to the liver, blood immune systems, thyroid and fetal development in particular sensitive subgroups, such as pregnant or nursing women, Infants and people with a compromised immune system.

MassDEP promulgated regulations in October 2020:

- US EPA Federal Drinking Water Guidance 70 ng/L (or parts per million). As there is currently no

federal drinking water guideline in this area, the states have the authority to issue more stringent regulations than the federal government. There is a federal guideline that suggests that 70 ng/L or less is appropriate for drinking water. However, there is a national movement to have the EPA re-visit that guideline and possibly issue federal drinking water standards for PFAS.

- MassDEP MCL of 20 ng/L. Mass DEP took a more aggressive position that water samples must be less than 20 ng/L.

The MassDEP PFAS standard had a phase-in over the course of calendar year 2021 and it was based on the population size of the community. Based on population, Natick would have would have been required to begin testing for PFAS this April. However, since we have a very proactive well replacement program, we were testing a replacement for one of the Evergreen wells in the northern part of Natick (near Lake Cochituate) to be able to put the new well in production. One of the new drinking water standards that MassDEP required before putting that well into production was PFAS. And then, so this December, we did water quality testing for that well found that there was PFAS in that well, which triggered the town to pursue testing all of our drinking water sources and entry points into the drinking water system. That initial round of tests was paid for by the Commonwealth. We have four entry points (source wells) into the drinking water system and that's actually what's regulated. Each of those four entry points must be below 20 ng/L. and it's a three month average that determines compliance. Since had slightly elevated results in December, MassDEP required us to begin monthly sampling in January, so we now have results from monthly tests in January through April to enable MassDEP to determine whether we're in compliance. Our three-month average shows that two of our four entry points (both at the Springvale water treatment facility) are above the 20 ng/L. One entry point averaged 21 and the other averaged 24. The Morse Pond wells also showed elevated PFAS levels; however, those wells have not been in production for several years. Mr. Marsette noted that Natick tested all source wells in 2013 using the technology of the time, and found “no detect” (no trace) within our source water wells. However, since then, the lab equipment used to test for PFAS has become much more sensitive.

Since we needed to develop a plan to address this issue, we immediately formed a PFAS working group made up of the now Select Board Chair, the Health Department Director, and members of the DPW department including our regulatory compliance officer, Mr. Tony Comeau, our Water Supervisor and me. We've been meeting on a regular basis as more information has come in, to discuss the issue and to strategize how to address this to comply with this new drinking water standard.

In December, we sent out a letter to all businesses and residents notifying the public that we would be conducting our first monthly rounds of PFAS testing Then, after our first monthly result came back and showed the presence of the PFAS, we were required in January by MassDEP to send out a public education mailer to our residents and businesses which we did. We also took some immediate actions to help address the issue which included limiting the use of our source wells. Natick has ten source water wells for our drinking water supply, so we immediately minimized use of any of the source wells with elevated PFAS levels. We also made operational changes to mix water at the Springvale water treatment facility, our largest water source. There are seven wells that go through the two different treatment processes there that remove iron and manganese at that facility. Water that passes through those two processes has an entry point into the water system. However, through use of valves and the piping network that's currently there, we mix water in different ways in an attempt to lower the concentrations of PFAS that would be distributed to the drinking water distribution system. That reduced the PFAS level slightly month-over-month, but the concentration of the PFAS coming out of the Tonka filters (Tonka = name of the manufacturer of the filters) was not reduced below 20ng/L. We have also tested for PFAS monthly not only at the entry points to the system, but also all of the source water wells, which is above and beyond what’s required for regulatory compliance because it helps us see what operational changes we could conduct that may improve the water quality.

We were fortunate to receive a $150,000 grant from the MassDEP that enabled us to hire Haley and Ward, a design consultant environmental engineering firm to help us look at various options. They have been looking not only for different options on the short-term and long-term, but are helping us identify where the potential source of contamination may be from different sites. They have also helped us liaison with the MWRA and MassDEP and we're having regular meetings with our neighboring communities to look at different options. Natick and Wayland are the first two communities to be issued a notice of noncompliance for PFAS in the Commonwealth. Like I mentioned, because of our population, many of our peer communities like Wellesley and others have just started to test for PFAS, so we're ahead of the game and MassDEP is beginning the process of implementing their new drinking water standard state-wide.

Since we had the two sources over the 20 ng/L, MassDEP requires us to submit a short-term and long-term compliance plan. We've looked at various options, including;

1. Maximizing the use of our Elm Bank water supply. Elm Bank is our only permanent water supply, but is turned off seasonally due to the MassDEP permit requirements that govern it and the flow level on the Charles River. However, it has one of the lower concentrations of PFAS (below 10 ng/L). On a short-term basis, there is a possibility that MassDEP may let us operate that beyond the permit limits via a special permit request.
2. Emergency water connections directly with the MWRA or through our neighboring communities.
3. Providing sensitive populations with alternative water supply

The combination of those things will be what we vet and submit to MassDEP for approval and that plan is due on May 5, 2021. We're narrowing in on that short term action.

For the longer-term plan:

1. We're looking at the proposal detailed in Article 17 Motion E – the addition of treatment facilities at the Springvale water treatment facility.
2. Investigating an emergency or permanent connection to the MWRA water supply. Mr. Marsette noted that both an emergency connection and a permanent connection to the MWRA are two different things, but both require some initial capital investment, with emergency connection costing less than permanent connection. More detailed information on the cost to connect to the MWRA is found in the MWRA Connection Natick 3-23-21 memo.
3. Looking to identify potential contamination sources and removing those.

In short, the MWRA connection would require:

- MWRA Entrance Fee: approximately $16 million up-front. Communities joining the MWRA are charged an entrance fee of $4.4 million per million gallons of permitted water.
- Permanent infrastructure to construct a pipeline from their distribution network. The MWRA is looking at alternatives, one in the northern part of Framingham where the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel (MWWST) (an MWRA-managed advanced underground aqueduct that supplies potable water to greater Boston) and the Hultman Aqueduct (an MWRA managed aqueduct that extends from Southborough to Weston). This is where MWRA would have Natick make a permanent connection to the MWRA water supply. However, that location is about four miles away and requires that large diameter piping be constructed and pump stations constructed at those locales. It would also require reconstruction of roadways that those pipelines would, would go through, acquisition of required easements to route that piping and inter-municipal agreements also would be required. Generally, the permanent connection to the MWRA takes about two years for

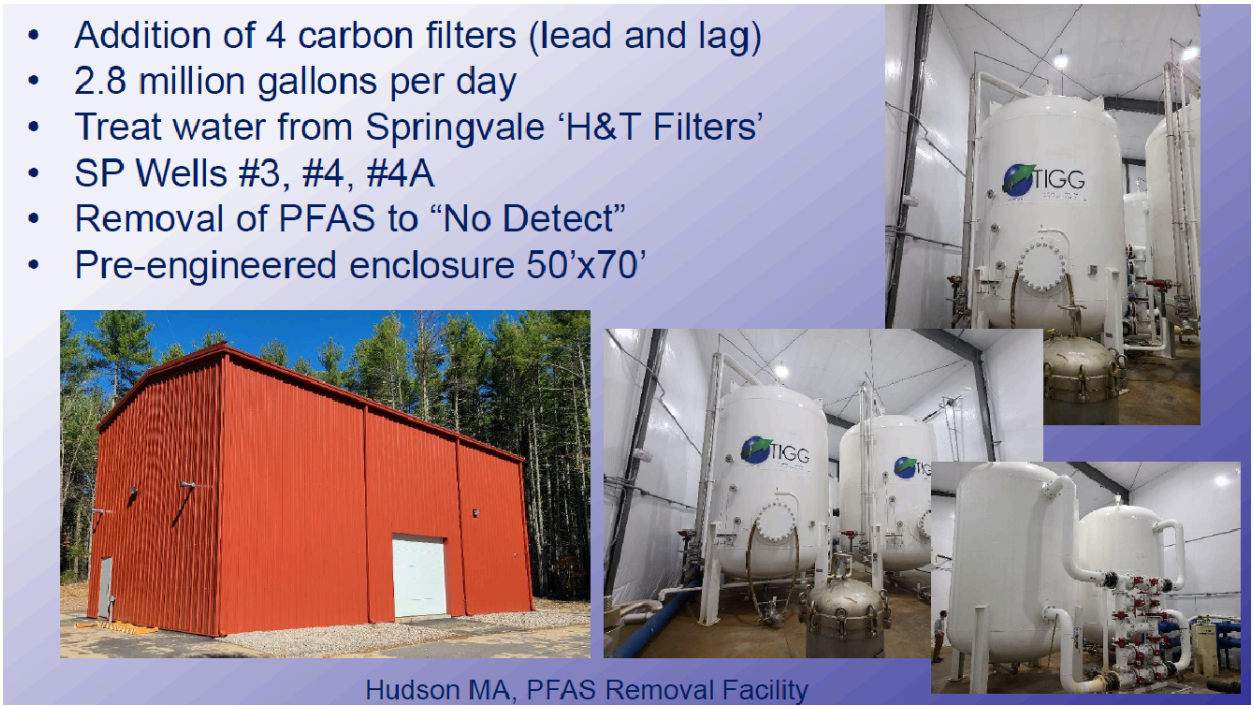
permit process and about four years (in total) for permit, design and construction - it's not a short term solution. Thus, in addition to the $16 million entrance fee, the infrastructure costs are estimated at $12 million dollars.

- Then you add the wholesale cost of drinking water, just like the sewer betterment that we currently pay to the MWRA, there would be a water betterment as well - an annual cost to buy water. If it were Natick's entire water supply, it's estimated that would cost $4.7 million dollars annually.
- An emergency connection does not entail as much up-front cost, but is still significant. There is an initial cost to add a temporary pump station whether connecting directly to the MWRA or through neighboring communities. We estimate that the temporary pump station would cost about $200,000 and it has limitations as far as how much water it could supply. Further, the equipment needed is not available immediately and has a 2-3 month lead time to purchase, acquire and set up a temporary emergency pump station.
- There are numerous obstacles to a temporary connection to the MWRA:
    - The connections to our system, if they were directly connected to the MWRA would be in the outlying areas of our water distribution system that have smaller diameter piping. It would be a hydraulic challenge to supply a larger amount of water through this piping to get that water back into our system.
    - There's also a water chemistry issue and we've been working closely with the MWRA and their labs to test our local water to determine the feasibility of mixing the two water sources and how they interact with each other. In general, the MWRA water has a much higher pH than Natick water because they use a different form of disinfection (they use chloramines, a mixture of chlorine and ammonia for disinfection); Natick uses use free chlorine only so our pH is lower. For corrosion control, Natick uses a polyphosphate to help minimize the corrosion or leaching of lead and copper from pipes into our drinking water. Unfortunately, when these two different water supplies (MWRA & Natick) mix, it tends to create more corrosive water than we currently have in our system and that could potentially lead to higher amounts of lead and copper leaching from piping into our water system. The scale that develops on the inside of Natick's piping forms a barrier between our water and the piping material providing protection against leaching from our piping. However, mixing these two water sources would, over time, weaken that protective coating and dissolve it into the water. So there's this concern about the corrosiveness of the mixture of the waters more in the longer-term.
    - Wellesley experienced this issue since they have a partial supply from MWRA that they use seasonally and their local water is similar to ours. When they mix their water with the MWRA water, iron has come out of suspension from the water and causes odor and tastes issues (rust-colored water and ammonia smell and taste). This requires that they do a fair amount of flushing to clean out those problems points through the summer months when they're using that supplemental supply.
    - In conclusion, we've very thoroughly investigated an emergency connection and have identified these problems and will continue to investigate more. However, should we need to move to use MWRA water on a longer-term, there are some significant costs and water chemistry issues that would need to be resolved.

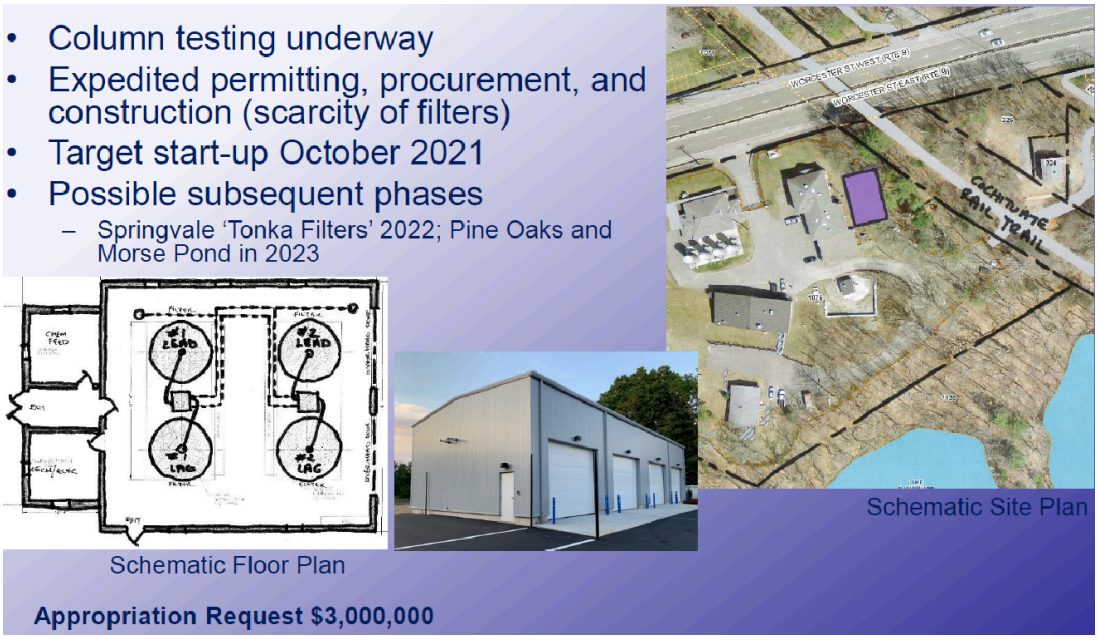
Mr. Marsette noted that Natick received a $150,000 MassDEP to help fund engineering costs and there are some programs available that could help fund construction as well - the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for clean drinking water. This revolving fund is available through an

emergency application process and this would provide a 0% interest loan that we will take advantage of should Town Meeting approve this capital request,. Unfortunately, currently, there are no grants associated with that SRF program.

Another potential funding source is possible federal stimulus money. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 stimulus package included water treatment and water improvement capital monies that were distributed to local communities through the SRF program, so we're keeping our eyes on that should that become a possibility under the current stimulus program.



- The capital project that we're proposing is to add four carbon filters. Each of those filters has two filters the water would go through. Each of those two filters needs a lead and a lag per the MassDEP requirements.
- We're proposing to add these carbon filters at the outflow of the Hungerford and Terry (H&T filters) that remove iron and manganese from our drinking water. After removing the iron and manganese, we would run the water through these carbon filters to remove PFAS.
- We've supplied our current water chemistry, and the composition of our PFAS that's currently within our water supply to several manufacturers of these filters and they're confident that the carbon filters that we're proposing would remove all PFAS that's present down to zero ("no detection") for the water going through this treatment. These filters will be capable of providing 2.8 million gallons per day, which is about the same capacity that the H&T filters have.
- We would fast-track this construction. We conducted a site visit to Hudson, MA where they installed a PFAS removal facility using carbon treatment in an expedited construction process. We've shown a picture of the outside and inside of their building. And on the inside, there are four carbon filters, two sets of two. Their facility is smaller, and, fortunately for them, they were able to clearly identify the contamination source. This facility, which cost a little less than $2 million was fully funded by a manufacturer and was put online quickly. They poured a concrete slab, put the off-the-shelf filters on those slabs and got in production. They had sourcing issues and struggled to get the building completed before winter, although the filter units were already up and running.
- We're proposing a structure of above 50 x 70 feet, a pre-engineered structure similar to the structure used in Hudson, and there are many options to sell that make it a little more attractive.



- The schematic above shows where the proposed treatment facility treatment building would go. The filters would be housed behind the H&T building, which is in the top corner of the property near the Cochituate Rail Trail. Based on where the plumbing and piping is, this is where the building needs to go so that it's capturing the water the effluent coming in from the H&T filters before being discharged into the distribution system. Our water is currently being run through “column testing” at the vendors so they're testing our actual water running through the carbon filters and test results should be known in the coming couple of weeks. Because they've done many of these in the past, they're very confident that our chemistry and the PFAS that we have in our water will be fully removed by this process so that the column testing is really just proof-of-concept.
- We would take advantage of an expedited permitting process through MassDEP using an expedited procurement. Because of the scarcity of filters in our investigation, we found there is a big demand for carbon filters based on the impending federal guidance and changes to federal regulations for PFAS, so there’s a scarcity of these filters. However, we're optimistic that we can source the four filters we need, and then the enclosures to have a target startup date of October 2021 to have this treatment facility operational.
- We mentioned that it’s possible that there may be subsequent phases. Our intent is to build this treatment facility, then rearrange some piping and plumbing at the Springvale facility to allow us to better mix the effluent from the H&T filters and this carbon filtration to the Tonka filters (iron and manganese removal filters) to form one discharge point to the water distribution system.
- Our engineering consultant has calculated that the effluent from the plant would be below the 20 ng/L threshold, but would still be present, so it is it possible that Natick, as a community, would choose to add additional filters of a similar cost to the effluent through from the Tonka filters to remove all the PFAS from this treatment facility and we're leaving that that option open so that it could be phased in a future point, if needed.
- There are two other entry points into the system, the Pine Oaks wells and the Morse’s Pond wells. Pine Oaks is in operation and currently the source water there is below the 20 ng/L. However, now that we have monthly testing that could fluctuate and we will

monitor that. In addition, Pine Oaks is a smaller wellsite, so that would be a much smaller carbon filter setup there should we choose to do that in addition. The Morse's Pond wells are also lower production at present, but we've wanted to get it back into production for a number of years. Should we to do that, this would again require a smaller carbon filter (as compared to Springvale) there.

The appropriation request is for $3 million to fund current filter additions at the Springvale water treatment facility.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Marsette said that he received a few questions ahead of time and may have answered some of those with this presentation.

Would this be considered an unfunded state mandate? Mr. Marsette said "yes and no" in that we received a grant for $150,000 from MassDEP that is helpful. However, there are no current grant programs for the construction of treatment facilities other than applying to the SRF program to get a zero interest rate loan.

Is the requirement basis per total or per source? It's per source and it's per entry point into the distribution system. So it's not volumetrically calculated - each entry point must have a concentration of 20 ng/L or less of PFAS

What are the MWRA PFAS levels? The MWRA water supply is from Quabbin and Quabbin watershed Reservoirs. They tested for PFAS a few years ago and are now testing annually, and have no detected presence of PFAS in their source water. However, as previously mentioned, there are chemistry issues with mixing their water with our local water supply.

What are the different treatment alternatives? For local treatment, there are two treatment alternatives that are approved by MassDEP and are commercially available: 1) granular activated carbon filtration (which is what we're proposing) or 2) resin filtration. Resin filtration uses the same filter vessels and plumbing, but instead of carbon media in the filters, the filters use "magnetic ion exchange" resin beads to remove the PFAS. Although resin filtration is approved and does work, it has some negatives. In addition to their Hudson's carbon filtration system, they have another water treatment plant that uses resin that they installed first and they're finding it very difficult to dispose of the spent resin.

With the technology, we anticipate a two-year runtime. At some point, the media in your lead filter has break-through - that's why you have a lag so the PFAS doesn't get into the water distribution system. When you have break-through and have to replace your media, then you're processing the water through your lag while you replace your lead media. However, you have to dispose of all that media and the carbon media is more readily disposed because the suppliers can re-fire it which makes it activated carbon again and mix it with some virgin carbon to create filter material. On the other hand, the disposal of resin media is much more difficult and municipalities that use this approach are struggling with it. Hudson had to replace the resin media, and they cannot find a place where they can dispose it – it is in dumpsters and containers on their water treatment facility site. Resin is also more expensive up-front and to replace the media, so we're not proposing that alternative.

A third treatment option is emerging - reverse osmosis through filters. With this option, water runs through very small filters and separates the PFAS in concentrated liquid form which then is run through carbon filters to remove that concentrated PFAS liquid. In this approach, you might only need a smaller carbon filter unit but you still have to regenerate that carbon at some point,

as with the previous options discussed. However it hasn't been tested to this scale and hasn't been approved by MassDEP, so that option is not available to us at this time.

Mr. Evans asked for an estimate of the recharge cost for the carbon filters that would occur every two years. Mr. Marsette said the filters themselves stay in place and the filter media is removed through access ports. The acquisition of new filter media and disposal of the existing filter media is estimated to be $200,000 for each filter.

Mr. Linehan noted that Mr. Marsette said there are seven Springvale wells and wells #3, #4, & #4A are the sources that have the highest level of PFAS. Mr. Marsette said that is correct and that there are four wells that go through the Tonka filters. However, those have lower concentrations of PFAS. Mr. Marsette said there is a volumetric equation to the PFAS concentration where increased water volume can change the concentration or vice versa.

Mr. Linehan asked whether there is anything that would come out of the other filters that might interfere with the PFAS filtering or shorten the lifespan of the activated charcoal. Mr. Marsette said that is one of the reasons that the column testing is being done and the vendors also has have a very detailed water quality analysis from the lab testing. We originally thought we would need to de-chlorinate after the H&T filters before going through the carbon filters because the chlorine can actually eat up some of the carbon. However, the vendor believes that we do not need to do that so that would remove one treatment process from the facilities so we wouldn't have to de-chlorinate, run through these carbon filters and then re-chlorinate the water again before going into the system. However, we're designing the building to accommodate for de-chlorination should we find that it is needed. We would prefer not to have to de-chlorinate and add chlorine again later and spare us the additional process and chemicals.
Mr. LaFleur asked how the disposed filter media is handled to dispose of the captured PFAS. Mr. Marsette said the current method is that they incinerate the burn the carbon media and the PFAS break down in the in the incineration process. Once removed from our filters, the carbon media is classified as hazardous material. As such, it requires a bill of lading to ensure that it's processed appropriately. Natick would be the source of that material so we would ensure that it goes through proper treatment and disposal and all the bills of lading are tracked.

Mr. Coffey asked whether the town realistically has any choice in this matter. Mr. Marsette said there is no option not to comply with the MassDEP PFAS drinking water standard.

Mr. Coffey asked if there is any projection of the increases that ratepayers as a result of this project. Mr. Marsette said one of the alternatives to local water supply is sourcing water from the MWRA, involving an order of magnitude higher capital cost and a significant amount of costs per year for wholesale water costs. We've calculated that the wholesale water costs to purchase from the MWRA is a little over $4,000 per million gallons. And we've calculated that we produce local drinking water for about $1,500 per million gallons, so there's a significant difference in the cost per year for us to source our own water that should be considered in the equation. Regarding the impact on the FY 22 enterprise fund budget, there's a fair amount of debt that has come off the books in this enterprise fund. The line item for principal and interest payments for enterprise fund debt is reduced from FY 21 to FY 22 by over $400,000, a 17% reduction. So if the town needed to invest, and borrow for this enterprise fund, now seems to be a good time. The debt service for $3 million and borrowing at 2% is about $200,000 per year. So overall, even with adding $200,000 principal and interest to the debt service for the enterprise funds, it's still lower than it was with the debt that's dropping off.

Mr. Coburn noted that Mr. Marsette mentioned that the activated carbon filtration medium can be processed and recycled and asked if there any filter vendors or equipment vendors or

service vendors are who do end-to-end life cycle management as part of their business model. Mr. Marsette said the sourcing of the carbon media and the vendors that dispose of it are the same and there are a handful of vendors that do this work, with the largest being Calgon. These vendors take the old media, recycled it and can mix a certain amount of recycled media with new media and sell that on the market.

Ms. Wollschlager stated that Mr. Marsette mentioned there are some short-term potential costs that you're exploring right now – does this motion for $3 million cover any short-term expenses or is it just for building this new removal facility? Mr. Marsette said these capital costs would not necessarily be classified as short-term compliance by MassDEP. MassDEP required us to immediately address some of the issues and develop a plan. This proposed capital upgrade would satisfy the longer-term requirements, though we believe we can do it fairly rapidly if we proceed now. Short-term, MassDEP will look for the community to minimize PFAS into the water distribution system. They may require us to provide alternate water supplies for sensitive subgroups and we're developing a plan to do that, if that is required and we will have more details on that coming shortly.

Ms. Wollschlager asked if Mr. Marsette anticipates that the town may need to come back to us in the fall with expenses associated with short-term remediation and asked if he had a ballpark figure for what that might cost. Mr. Marsette said if the town were to source bottled water for sensitive subgroups, other communities have a similar size (Hudson, for example) have had annual costs about $250,000 to supply that water plus the labor costs to distribute that water. However, there's an alternative to that as well, we could offer a rebate to ratepayers so that they could source their own water. Ratepayers would get a small discount on their water bill by sourcing their own water and that is an acceptable alternative for MassDEP. We're also exploring an alternative that would not require the need to provide alternate water supply, which would be maximizing our current withdrawals of water from the Elm Bank water supply. To do that would require requests to MassDEP to operate that those wells outside of the permit that was issued and we would need to request that change and then MassDEP will put some requirements on that request. Right now, we're framing that request and determining how we would go about requesting that such that it minimizes any adverse impacts to the water customers.

Ms. Wollschlager asked if there is any risk associated with that because for example, during the summer months, the town is often not permitted to use Elm Bank during that time or is it a combination of all these strategies. Mr. Marsette said it's a combination of all these strategies. On maximizing Elm Bank - we've recently done a pump test there and cleaned one of the wells there to get a much higher yield. There's actually four well fields at Elm Bank when those were developed back in 2006. And when you develop a well, you do pump tests to test the maximum safety yield that can be used and you measure how much water you can get out for a sustained length of time. This generates what's called the safe yield for your aquifer. At the time that those four wells were developed, the safety yield was determined to be about 9 million gallons per day, which is well in excess of our max daily requirements. Fortunately, those wells are connected to Natick's main distribution system with fairly large diameter piping, actually a bit too large. One of our capital requests is to clean some of that piping and that has led to some dirty water complaints in the past. However, that's well over the permit required limits that are set by MassDEP, so they will likely put restrictions on that use. Some restrictions might include not only volume, but restrictions on outdoor watering or they might put a time limit on how long we could use Elm Bank at this higher level. It's likely that they will require a month-to-month agreement, so increased usage of Elm Bank is probably not a permanent solution and it

minimizes our flexibility in that we don't have as much redundancy if we're relying solely on Elm Bank

Mr. Linehan suggested that we delete the word “individually” since Motion E only has one item. Mr. Marsette agreed to make this change.

Mr. Errickson requested the addition of this paragraph to Motion E

“ All, or any portion of this amount may be borrowed through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the “Trust”), and in that event, the Selectmen, and any other appropriate officials of the Town, are authorized to execute and deliver any agreements or other documents that may be required by the Trust or the Commonwealth’s Department of Environmental Protection.” Mr. Errickson said there may be SRF funding, a potential funding source that we can tap into, and this language gives us the flexibility and the freedom to be able to use that funding source if we can. Regardless, we still need to have a full appropriation from the town, so we would still need to seek the entire Motion E amount at Town Meeting.

Ms. Wollschlager asked for confirmation that this had been reviewed with Bond Counsel and Mr. Errickson said it had been reviewed and approved by Bond Counsel.

Mr. Evans moved to recommend Favorable Action on Article 17 Motion E, seconded by Mr. Grome, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes	Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes	Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes	Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Evans = yes	Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes	Mr. Scurlock = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes	Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Debate

Mr. Evans said that there is phenomenal amount of work that has been done here, noting the depth of analysis in terms of the flexibility, looking at alternatives, and pricing them all out in a relatively short amount of time. This is just phenomenal work and I’m very appreciative of all the education we were given tonight, as far as mixing waters and the effect it could have on corrosion of pipes and the detailed cost analysis. The Water and Sewer Department, DPW, and town administration have done a phenomenal job of pulling us together in a very short amount of time, so I support it fully.

Mr. Grome agreed with the thoroughness of the analysis.

Mr. Coburn stated that this has been fully investigated promptly, quickly, with great expertise and provided a full explanation of the relevant factors and the path forward.

Mr. Linehan reiterated the appreciation for the detailed analysis and explanation and noted that the DPW and town offices have done a tremendous job serving the community.

Ms. Wollschlager thanked Mr. Marsette and his team and everyone who worked on putting this together in such an accelerated and unexpected timeframe, as we were thinking we were not going to have to do anything until later this year. In particular, she said she was grateful for analysis of hooking up to the MWRA. Natick is putting a lot of investment in our water and it's good to know what the alternatives could be. I think as this information becomes known. Natick ratepayers will appreciate how lucky we are to have locally source water and how fortunate we are to have a DPW department that is flexible and

responsive and figure out a solution to this problem that, hopefully, can be implemented in the fall. The long hours you spent in doing all of your due diligence and the thoroughness is very much appreciated.

Mr. Coburn moved to close the public hearing on 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, seconded by Mr. LaFleur, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Meeting Minutes

Mr. LaFleur moved to approve, as amended the March 30, 2021 Meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Coffey, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes

Mr. Coburn moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. LaFleur, voted 12 – 0 – 0.

Roll-call vote:

Mr. Coburn = yes
Mr. Coffey = yes
Mr. DeLuca = yes
Mr. Evans = yes
Mr. Gillenwater = yes
Mr. LaFleur = yes
Mr. Grome = yes
Mr. Linehan = yes
Mr. Pope = yes
Mr. Resmini = yes
Mr. Scurlock = yes
Ms. Wollschlager = yes

MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:17 PM