

## PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD

The 424<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Pawtucket Water Supply Board met on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:00 PM

William Masuck called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

### **PWSB Members Present**

William Masuck, Chairperson – present

James Bradford, Vice Chairperson – present

Thomas Hodge – present

Mike Araujo –present

Mark Theroux – present

Mark Stankiewicz - present

### **PWSB Staff Present**

James DeCelles - Chief Engineer

Russel Houde – Assistant Chief Engineer

Chris Collins – Source Water Manager

Michael Lecours – Chief Financial Officer

Katie Peters – Executive Project Manager

### **Public Attendees**

Kyle Sundberg – Veolia

John Oatley – Veolia

John Marcin – Inframark

Aurora Leigh – Pine Street Development, LLC

Sean Coffey – Burns & Levinson

A motion to move to item 5E on the agenda was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

### **Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**5E. Bill Adjustment Request - 327 Pine St, Pawt**

Ms. Aurora Leigh sent a letter to the board requesting that \$6,987.88 in fire service charges for their property be reversed. They claim that all fire services were off, and the building was under a fire watch. They also claim that they never received any bills. Ms. Leigh spoke to the board, claiming the water was shut off, the building was under fire watch, the building at 327 Pine Street had been completely demolished in November 2022, and that she had not been aware of the fire service charges to the account. When questioned by Thomas Hodge regarding whether her company had received the bills to their business address on Goff Street, Ms. Leigh acknowledged that an assistant had just filed them away since they were on autopay, and it took until January 2023 for Ms. Leigh to notice the high water bills. Additionally, there was no evidence presented that the building was indeed under a fire watch, as Ms. Leigh did not present documentation proving that there was a fire watch in place, and the Pawtucket Fire Department had no such record either. Mark Theroux pointed out that it should not have taken almost a year to notice a charge on the bill that they did not agree with, and it is the property owner's responsibility to dispute any bills in a timely manner. The board agreed that the lack of evidence and extended timeline were areas of concern in this matter.

Motion to deny the bill adjustment was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

A motion to move to item 5A on the agenda was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**5A. Treatment Plant Contract Operations Procurement Recommendation**

The current 20-year service agreement, with a short-term extension, is anticipated to expire in September 2024. The PWSB issued an RFP on April 12 to solicit proposals and pricing for a ten-year contract with two five-year renewals at the PWSB’s sole discretion. The RFP included a complete description of the facilities that the contractor would be responsible for, the services to be provided and the terms and conditions. The PWSB also provided a draft service agreement for potential vendors to review and comment on. Generally, the requested services and contractual terms are very similar to those currently provided by Veolia.

Two firms submitted proposals and based on the staff’s review both were deemed qualified to perform the required services. The table below shows the cost for each proposer:

	<u>1st year service fee</u>	<u>% of index</u>	<u>10-year SF cost</u>	<u>Electrical cap (kWh)</u>
Inframark Base	\$ 3,098,268	100%	\$ 36,347,000	6,241,552
Veolia Base	\$ 3,230,000	100%	\$ 37,892,400	6,303,550

It was agreed that both Veolia and Inframark had the technical capabilities to run the plant, and that was not in question. Jim DeCelles elaborated on the one significant issue with the Inframark proposal. Under the proposal terms, the PWSB will provide an annual amount (\$165,000 in contract year 1 (as a partial year), and \$200,000 for each full year after) for the Vendor to undertake repair and replacement activities at the PWSB facilities. Staff believes this is a reasonable amount based on the age and current condition of those facilities. In its proposal, Inframark identified several million dollars of work that it believes may need to be undertaken. In their proposal, they also state that if the PWSB is unable to fund that work, Inframark would be relieved from many of the performance requirements in the contract. During the clarification process, PWSB requested that Inframark explain the basis for the estimated work they included in their proposal. Inframark responded that it was an estimate based on their recent visits to the plant and historical experience with the plant. They further stated that once under contract they would refine the estimate. Staff is concerned that under that process, the PWSB would either be in a situation where it would be required to significantly increase its renewal and replacement allowance and/or accept increased risk for plant performance. The recommendation for the board, given this uncertainty, and the relatively small cost difference, is that PWSB move forward with the selection of Veolia to be our contract operator for the next 10 years. The board agreed with this assessment. Thomas Hodge noted that the PWSB has had a good working relationship with Veolia for these past 20 years and that weighs very heavily on the choice to switch to a new vendor or stay with Veolia. John Marcin from Inframark thanked the board for their consideration, and the board thanked Inframark for their interest in the treatment plant operations bid.

Motion to authorize the PWSB to move forward with Veolia and negotiate a contract to bring it back to the board for approval was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**4. Consent Agenda**

Mike Araujo asked about the two open water equipment operator positions that have been vacant for many months, inquiring as to whether the PWSB has had to hire any outside contractors for dig jobs. While the PWSB has not had to do this yet, it may become necessary in the future. The PWSB has been trying for over two years to get pay scale revisions passed for a number of 1012 positions, including equipment operator and utility workers. Thomas Hodge and the board acknowledged their appreciation for the PWSB's quick responses to water breaks and emergencies. It was discussed that many of the PWSB management team would be retiring in the next five years, but that the PWSB has hired four younger employees as water utility workers.

A motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by James Bradford.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**New Business:**

**5B. Bristol Country Water Purchase Contract**

Motion to table this agenda item until the next meeting was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**5C. Contract Engineering Services**

The Board was asked to authorize the award of an engineering services contract to Pare Corporation (Pare) of Lincoln, Rhode Island. These services will be performed on a billing rate basis per Pare's attached proposal dated August 16, 2024. This procurement of engineering services is being performed per the terms and conditions of RI Master Price Agreement (MPA) number 584 titled "Engineering Services". It is anticipated that Pare will provide construction related services on a daily basis at a fee \$130.00 per hour and at a rate of 40-hour work week as the need arises for the duration of the construction season. The need for these engineering related construction services is related to the anticipated additional crews being mobilized by the MR - 14 Contractor. In addition, the Narragansett Bay Commission's (NBC) numerous projects related to the construction of the tunnel and pump station for combined sewer overflow abatement. In certain instances, these NBC projects necessitated that PWSB water works infrastructure be relocated, adjusted or otherwise altered by NBC Contractors. Under such circumstances, PWSB requires full time observation of NBC contractors when working on water works infrastructure and the cost of which will be fully reimbursed to PWSB by NBC.

Motion to accept the award was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Stankiewicz.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

**APPROVED**

**5D. 2024 Dam Inspections**

The Board was asked to authorize a contract for the completion of the two dam inspections for a not to exceed price of \$8,500. The RIDEM Dam Regulations stipulate that all "high" and "significant" hazard dam structures be routinely inspected at minimum every two (2) years and that inspection results be provided to RIDEM. PWSB is mandated by RIDEM for inspection of the Diamond Hill Reservoir Dam (RI077) and the Arnold Mill Reservoir Dam (RI078) by December 2024. The engineering firm of Pare Corporation (Pare) of Lincoln RI was previously commissioned to perform these inspections. The PWSB solicited a proposal from Pare for completion of an inspection of the dam structures and preparation of a report to comply with the RIDEM Dam Regulations. Pare is identified under State of RI Master Price Agreement No. 584B for performance of Civil Engineering Services. Due to Pare's previous inspections of these facilities, they will not have to complete background work and have provided a competitive cost proposal as outlined below. Pare has completed dam inspections on these structures in the past and has extensive experience in this regard

Diamond Hill Reservoir Dam	\$4,250
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Arnold Mill Reservoir Dam	\$4,250
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Motion to authorize the contract was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by James Bradford.

**Roll Call Taken:**

William Masuck - Yes

James Bradford – Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Mark Theroux – Yes

Mark Stankiewicz - Yes

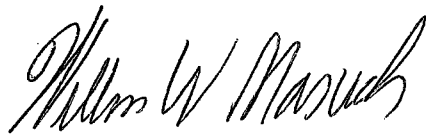
**APPROVED**

Next scheduled meeting will be on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

A motion to adjourn was made by James Bradford and seconded by Mark Theroux.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Certified by PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD, recorded by kp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Masuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

William Masuck, Chairperson