



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Veronica Kell, *Chairman*

Chaz Sexton-Diranian, *Vice Chairman*

Theresa A. Morse, *Clerk*

R. Eric Slagle, Town Administrator

Rec'd Townsend Town Clerk  
10 FEB '23 PM 1:51

	Topic: Joint BOS & BoWC Meeting Time: Jan 10, 2023 19:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)
I. PRELIMINARIES	
1.1 Call the meeting to order and roll call.	Board of Selectmen meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Veronica Kell, Theresa Morse present in person. Board of Water Commissioners meeting called to order at 7:04 with Todd Melanson (Chair President), Nathan Mattila (Vice Chair), in present in person.
1.2 Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge of Allegiance recited.
1.3 Announce the meeting is being tape recorded.	Veronica Kell announced that meeting is being recorded, is live on channel 9 and will be on the Town's YouTube channel afterwards.
1.4 Additions or Deletions.	Additions: None Deletions: None
1.5 Public Comment	None
1.6 Review/Approve the meeting minutes.	None
II. APPOINTMENTS/HEARINGS	None
III. APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS/PERSONNEL	None
IV. MEETING BUSINESS	
4.1 Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to present the Harbor Trace Treatment Plant Project Update.	Presentation of the PFAS situation and the Harbor Trace Water Treatment Plant. Louis Soracco, PE with Tighe and Bond led the presentation and spoke about the PFAS discovery as well as giving an overview of all the elements included in the project and schedule. He introduced the project team and spoke about the background and purpose, here listing the 4 Main wells in Townsend (Harbor Trace, Witch's Brook with 2 wells, Main Street, Cross Street), with Harbor Trace being the largest on and Cross Street being the smallest one. PFAS was detected in Harbor Trace a year and half ago when the PFAS concentration was high and above level, the concentration in the other wells were lower and under level. Once new EPA requirements will be put into effect the Witch's Brook well could be over the new level. The Water Treatment Plant is to provide PFAS treatment for Harbor Trace and Witch's Brook wells, both in one centralized facility to reduce costs. On South Harbor Road and Emery

Road are two dead ends of the water distribution system as part of the project everything will be pumped to a central location and a system is in place to provide consistent water supply to the Town in the event one system should fail. Louis Soracco is further showing slides for project overview of the power point presentation outlining the size, location and cost of the Water Treatment Plant. It is planned to have the plant online by April 2025. Louis Soracco further explained the estimated project schedule with an estimated project completion by February 2025 due to the bidding process taking a few months and material delays leading to long estimated construction duration.

Mary Danielson from Tighe & Bond presented:

Project 1: Water Treatment Plant located on Harbor Trace Road.

Mary Danielson further presented elevation views of the building to get an idea how it will look once done. There will be office components and a garage for the Water department and actual treatment facility and chemical injections for additional treatment of the water. Interior portion of the building on Water Treatment Plant with tall filters.

Project 2 are the two water mains, one being raw water, which has not been treated for PFAS. This is connecting two wells of Witch's Brook to the Water Treatment Plant, the pipe will be located entirely within paved roadways and the project will be in compliance with the Conservation Commission. The second water main is the looping water main; this water is for all treated water and will be connecting the two dead ends in town on Emery Road (near Rod & Gun Club) and South Harbor Road (at Ash St). Residents have been contacting with the Water Superintendent Dave Vigeant about potential future connection to the water main. There will be drilling under the culvert crossing to maintain the integrity of culverts on this section of the water main.

Todd Melanson thanked Tighe & Bond for the presentation. Pilot tests were done, and the GAC filters have reacted the best. Looping of the dead ends will help with the discoloration, the flow going back and forth caused discoloration, when water goes in one flow this problem will be somewhat avoided. If there is a main break in the future the water will still flow to people and a smaller amount of the population will be affected.

The Board of Selectmen had questions. It was clarified that South Harbor Road is not a private road and the that the loop is a very large loop throughout town connecting the dead end at Rod & Gun Club, the loop then continues out to Emery Road towards Route 113.

Todd Melanson stated that the only road that is not public at the moment is Harbor Trace, but it will be once the water main will be going down that and it has to be widened. The plan is to adopt the road at the next Town meeting.

Veronica Kell was wondering why we are charging such high-water rates, when plant was supposed to be free. Todd Melanson clarified that there is

a zero percent interest, but it is not 100 percent principal forgiveness for the loan. It is not entirely free although funding from the Federal State was available. The Town okayed the funding for it at the Annual Town Meeting last year. The entire 19-million-dollar project needed to go to bond there is still an unknown not certified amount of principal forgiveness. Other communities have PFAS detections as well. Townsend was first in line. Townsend joined the class action lawsuit and the trial case started last week. As to the rate increase, the Town went without an increase for a long time, now it is time to come to the present. Regular cleaning needs to be done, we have iron, manganese, PH and bacteria; a lot of infrastructure work needs to be done. Part of it is paying for the treatment plant. Pumps, controls, additional staff to name a few. The system needs to be maintained as well. Price of everything has gone up. The project is not entirely free. A rate study was done by a non-biased third party the matrix to fit Townsend and impact the community at least was picked.

Theresa Morse raised the question of private wells being impacted by the cost. Todd Melanson clarified that none of this is charged to private wells but only to users of the public water system.

10 Cooperage Way residents were glad the towers will be enclosed, no view of them and raised the question of what impact and how close it would be to the culvert. Mary Danielson explained that the proposed storm water systems at the treatment facility will be capturing all the storm water impact over the facility and there will be no increased storm water or run off into existing drainage system out in the neighborhoods and there will not be any improving, taking away or adding anything to the existing drainage network outside of the footprint of the treatment facility.

10 Cooperage Way residents further question impact on property lines, also for the Harbor Trace Cooperage Way area and if proximity of buildings or any project features, leeching fields, smells, noise will have an impact. Todd Melanson explained that the leeching fields will be on the system and under DEP oversight, a smell will unlikely. It is cited where it needs to be and will be built with a lot of consideration on the impact of the neighborhood. Exposure will be temporary; most systems are enclosed.

10 Cooperage Way residents further raised the question to the Board of Selectmen if Cooperage Way can be included when Harbor Trace will become a public road. Board of Selectmen Chair, Veronica Kell referred the question to Town Administrator R. Eric Slagle. R. Eric Slagle stated the Highway Department Superintendent is of the belief they can accepted at the same time as long as the apron is paved. Chaz Sexton-Diranian would like to work with the Cooperage Way residents and the Town Administrator to address the issues and bring a warrant article to the Town Meeting. Chaz Sexton-Diranian pointed to his contact information on the website in case of more questions. There is also a process the developer has to complete.

Public Question was raised to David Vigeant if the front was graded, and it drops. David Vigeant clarified that it drops about 15ft to 20ft.

John Barrett raised a question of what caused the excessive amount of PFAS in Harbor Trace. Todd Melanson stated that the high concentration comes from residential use and septic systems at Timberlee Park as everything has PFAS in it (household items non-stick, soap, deodorant and much more). Todd Melanson further elaborated on the looping of water, a steadier stream in a single direction flow will allow flushing. John Barrett further asked if the water would need to be chlorinated with the concern that the water will not be good to drink anymore. Todd Melanson explained that the minimum concentration of chlorination from DEP is required, and it is mandated to be put in the water, because of bacteria in the water in all water systems.

Nathan Mattila raised the question when the last boil order was issued. 4 years ago repeated boil orders were issued and leeway was given until Treatment plant will be online, because of bacteria testing.

Veronica Kell raised a question about where private well owners should look for guidance regarding PFAS in their water system. Todd Melanson recommended to check MASS DEP has a list of certified labs to test the water but urged to keep in mind DPA and DEP have not waived the site contaminant protocol. It is good to make sure to check the piping for any Teflon tape which emits PFAS. The consequence if the well tested positive, is that it can then be classified as a contaminated site, once PFAS is found. It would be better to wait for a waiver and until new guidelines from DPA are released. If pregnant or under 5 years old use the well water, consider getting the well tested or go to bottled water consumption. If filtration system is not well maintained, they will give off amounts as well. There are PFAS certified filters but won't filter the regulation needed.

Motion was made by Todd Melanson and seconded by Nathan to adjourn the Board of Water Commissioners meeting at 7:58 PM. Motion was passed with all in favor.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Theresa Morse and seconded Chaz Sexton-Diranian to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion was passed with all in favor.

Recording of meeting

found: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFm4YZ4NdOw&list=PLQpCwUSpXeCa-inxdzK0jQMgEx3wCFBbE&index=2&t=213s>

Minutes submitted by Sabrina Moore on 02/07/2023.