

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022 AT 6:00PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chair Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant to the Town Administrator Janine Drake were in attendance.

1. Weston & Sampson Final Water & Sewer Report & Public Discussion

Joe McGinn, project manager at Weston and Sampson, expressed thanks to the Town, Select Board and Water and Sewer Districts for their efforts in helping complete the assessment. The assessment provides an examination of reasonable options available at reasonable cost. It identifies 10 management options as outlined in Chapter 5 of the report and discusses the 3 most advantageous options in Chapter 6. The report ultimately recommends consolidation into one single functioning entity, whether that be under the Town, amongst the districts or with a private company. It was noted that the WPI Water Resources Center study undertaken in conjunction with DEP several years ago recommended forming a single water district. There is the possibility that Moose Hill could be brought online in the future and provide a water source for Leicester and parts of Worcester.

Representative LeBoeuf stated that grant funding could potentially be available to assist with the cost of consolidation efforts. Senator Moore said the option of consolidation under the Town should be put out to the voters. Leicester Water Supply District Commissioner Bob Wilson stated their residents were not interested in rising rates which will go up by 70%. Hillcrest Sewer District Commissioner Sandy Wilson stated communication hasn't been greater and the report is not clear. Hillcrest Water District Commissioner Brian Green discussed issues with boundaries and the financials. Leicester Water Supply District Superintendent Joe Wood noted that capital improvement costs drive the rate structures that determine the rates. The issue of the high Cherry Valley Sewer rates was discussed. Consolidation would lower these rates due to subsidization from other rate payers in other districts whose rates would subsequently go up. Concerns about how to include the Oxford sewer customers currently part of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District were raised. The issue of the inability to control cost due to required improvements from new requirements that come out all the time was discussed. Noe study could guarantee any reductions to rates and costs. Adding the RCAP report and slides from each presentation to the final report as addendum was recommended.

Motion 011122-1: A motion was made by Mr. Phillis and seconded by Ms. Provencher to take the study under advisement and ask that comments be submitted in writing to the Select Board office to be responded to by Weston and Sampson. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**

Motion 011122-2: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Shocik at 7:43pm. **Motion carries 5:0:0.**