



**DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT**  
**Automation & Capital Budget**  
**Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022 | 6:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom Virtual Platform**

**Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording**

Gary Yessaillian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the meeting would be audio- and/or video-recorded.

**Attendance**

Gary Yessaillian  
Robert Lexander  
Eric Merithew

Blake Lukis, Executive Director  
Steve Locke, Operations Manager

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of June 16, 2022 were approved on a motion by Mr. Merithew and seconded by Mr. Yessaillian. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**General Discussion**

Mr. Lukis shared costs recently received on the treatment needed for PFAS, TTHM, and NaCl treatment at both Bridge Street and White Lodge treatment plants. Given the significant costs and required oversight, Mr. Lukis believed that a discussion was warranted as to whether or not system automation could be expedited. The intent of the automation subcommittee was to have a subset of the Board review the steps to system automation to see if the 8-year (plus or minus) timeframe to work towards automation, as presented in the February 2, 2022 Board meeting, could be expedited. Based on the impending costs associated with the PFAS treatment and the staff time it will take to oversee the upgrades, it is the staff's recommendation to continue on the track that we outlined in the February 2, 2022 meeting.

Discussion around the merits of system automation were discussed and it was agreed that moving towards automation would be beneficial for ease of operation and to better prepare the District for the future when finding operators may be difficult, rather than explicitly for a reduction in staff. It was further noted that MassDEP would likely not approve automation in the next few years while the plants would be undergoing a change in treatment process.

The subcommittee members agreed that it makes sense to continue towards automation on the track previously outlined, or even trying to expedite by a year, but that shortening the timeframe significantly is not realistic at this time.

The conversation was then turned to the Capital Budget. Further detail was provided around the treatment techniques and timeframes recommended for PFAS, TTHM, and NaCl at Bridge Street and White Lodge Treatment plants.

The current year capital budget was reviewed as well as year to date spending and forecast of expenditures by the end of the fiscal year.

The 2023 capital budget was reviewed at a high level for each fund. The Subcommittee recommended minor changes and staff shared that some numbers were estimated and were awaiting further information prior to being finalized. Changes will be made, and budgets updated for the next meeting.

Mr. Lukis will send out a poll to determine date for next meeting.

At 8:15 the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Merithew. By roll call vote, the meeting adjournment was unanimous.