



TOWN OF LINCOLN

WATER DEPARTMENT
MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF LINCOLN
WATER DEPARTMENT
16 Lincoln Road
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Water Commissioners Special Meeting August 21, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Wayland Water Department

Attendees:

Ruth Ann Hendrickson, Chairman
Heather Ring, Water Commissioner

Absent:

Bob Antia, Water Commissioner

This was an information gathering meeting. No decisions were discussed or voted.

DATE OF INTERVIEW 8/21/2019

Town: Wayland **Contact Name** Don Millette, Superintendent

Tel#: 508-358-3699 **Email:** _____

Interviewers: Heather Ring and Ruth Ann Hendrickson

QUESTIONS:

Interconnection to Lincoln: How handle pressure difference?

Lincoln and Wayland have an interconnection; he believes it is on Waltham St/Old Sudbury Rd. There are two hydrants there close together. Emergency connection can be established by running a connection between the two hydrants and renting a large pump to equalize the pressure. We believe the pressure in Wayland is lower than in Lincoln. Wayland has a Column C request from the DEP to formalize interconnection agreements with their neighboring towns.

This might be an opportunity to do a joint project with several towns; we can learn from his process.

See the layout of their WTP and how they insure backup computing in case of emergency

Their two SCADA computers are side by side on separate circuits. They achieve redundancy by using Verizon FiOS with radio as a backup. One of the computers is used for remote access for the SCADA controller program to all the wells. Communications are via Verizon FIOS with radio as backup. Works well – very redundant and Verizon maintains it. They have a cell tower at the pressure tank, so have FIOS there and they also have a PLC there. Can run the system by plugging a laptop into the PLC – backup in case the two main SCADA computers are lost.

Their pipe replacement program: Prioritization strategy? Any new technology?

They had a capital efficiency plan done by Tata & Howard (T&H). It has been well worth the cost. It included above and below ground inventory. They received an \$80K grant from the state to do the above ground inventory assessment.

Lawn irrigation policy

The have the toughest by-laws in the state. Any major construction on a property or a change of owners requires that the irrigation system be brought into line with the current requirements.

Use of zinc orthophosphate or not (see below)

They do not use it.

Leak detection procedure and frequency

Annual leak detection and correlation with data loggers. T&H is lining up this service and also helping to re-bid lab services and survey cross connections. Cross connection control will be on the next DEP sanitary survey.

Water meter replacement – for failure, for tech upgrade

They are currently on semi-annual manual read. They are upgrading to automatic read meters (ARMs) that report back to the central station. It will not only save much labor cost, but it will also allow them to watch for leaks continuously. They expect it to dramatically reduce their UAW.

He believes the state will require this technology within the next 10 years. They allow opt out for a fee.

Meter replacement is done whenever a property changes owner is the meter is >10 year old. They have almost no meter failures. Usually only by a meter freezing, which is customer neglect and charged to the customer.

Staff training and recruitment (is there a training matrix to follow, how do you fill vacancies)

They lost two staff in the last 2 months (their pay scale is low). Ads for a grade 3 treatment and a grade 2 distribution had no responses. Tried again for lower level with same results. Advertised in house and brought over 2 people from the DPW; will take 4 years to train them. Don would be happy to work with Heather on petitioning local VoTechs to create a water supply management career offering. Don is on the Mass Water Works Association Education panel and will float the idea at their next meeting.

Current biggest issues:

They have so many problems with manganese and iron they are facing \$7M capital cost for new treatment facilities. At their fall Town Meeting, Wayland voted to fund a study to determine the advisability of joining MWRA which costs about \$5M and eliminates the need for treatment personnel as water is ready to distribute, already disinfected with chloramine and treated with fluoride. He says that MWRA has no limits on water use; he worked in Weston, an MWRA customer, and they use 120 gal pp/day.

Other comments?

They pipe inventory is 50/50 cast iron and ductile steel. Had very little asbestos cement; some of that had vinyl lining that came loose and caused trouble.

Their system maps are quite accurate. They went to the engineering firms that designed the roadways. Apparently these firms never discard their old drawings so they were able to get as built info for all their roads.