

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

LOAN ORDER – WATER ENTERPRISE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

To borrow \$45,000,000 for the purpose of financing various water enterprise capital improvements and purchases and any related architectural and engineering services in connection therewith and any costs incidental and related thereto.

IT IS ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ALL OF ITS MEMBERS, as follows:

**Ordered:** That the sum of \$45,000,000 is appropriated for the purpose of financing the following water system capital improvements, and any related architectural and engineering services in connection therewith and any costs incidental and related thereto: (1) constructing a redundant transmission line (finished water main), (2) constructing a finished water storage tank (Fort Hill), (3) replacement of lead water service lines (distribution system), (4) replacement of large water meters (distribution system), (5) elimination of water main vulnerabilities (distribution system), (6) drinking water facility upgrades (Ferry Crossing), and (7) permitting, planning, design and construction services (legal and engineering services); that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow \$45,000,000 and to issue bonds or notes therefor under G.L. c.44 or any other enabling authority; that the City Manager is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; that the City Manager is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out the projects; and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify any or all of the bonds under G.L. c.44A and to provide such information and execute such documents as such board may require for these purposes. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this loan order, or upon the sale of any other bonds or notes approved by any other loan order of the City adopted prior to the date of this loan order, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**ORDER RECOMMENDED AND INTRODUCED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager

V: loan order – Water 45mil



Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager

May 20, 2019

Mayor William J. Samaras  
And  
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Samaras and Members of the Lowell City Council,

In December, the City of Lowell will submit an integrated plan ('IP') for capital improvements to the Environmental Protection Agency ('EPA'). The IP is part of a negotiated agreement between the EPA and the City of Lowell that requires the city to develop a long-term control plan ('LTCP') for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). Enclosed is a loan order which will provide funding over the next ten (10) years to finance the projects contained in the aforementioned plan.

The IP will include capital improvements for all of Lowell's water transport systems, including improvement to the drinking water, storm water, and wastewater systems. This integrated approach to address all of Lowell's water system needs has the advantage of allowing the city to address all of Lowell's water system improvements, along with CSO control projects and other necessary water related upgrades.

While the city recognizes the importance of investing in CSO control, Lowell's drinking water system vulnerabilities represent a serious concern with regards to the city's sustaining ability to provide safe and reliable drinking water to its residents. The IP process is an opportunity to construct the needed improvements to the drinking water system with a similar prioritization as CSO control projects.

There are four primary areas of concern with Lowell's drinking water distribution system that should be addressed within Lowell's integrated plan: the presence of more than 500 water service pipes with suspected lead material; the existence of several unreliable water transmission lines throughout the city; the absence of a redundant finished water transmission main leaving the treatment facility; and a lack of adequate storage for finished water in the eastern quadrant of the city.

The suspected lead service pipes were installed many decades ago; these lead pipes do not meet today's standards for a public drinking water distribution system. The lead pipes should be replaced with new pipes that are made of modern materials, in order to prevent the leaching of lead into the city's finished drinking water system.

Transmission line vulnerabilities are prevalent throughout the city, particularly associated with several water mains that cross the Merrimack River. The key transmission vulnerability is the lack of redundant water main leaving the drinking water treatment facility. All of the