

both of these capital improvements is estimated at \$3.8 million with a yearly outlay from Water Department revenues of approximately \$300,000.

Another important area discussed included the upgrading of the smaller water mains so that throughout the city the minimum size will be 8" (inches). Some sections of the city remain serviced by 6" mains which over time have probably had their flow capacity reduced well below the 6". In conjunction with the improved capacity of the smaller mains, other mains will be cleaned and lined. The ongoing program of cleaning and lining had been abandoned in the early 1970's. The Council was told that these improvements will increase water pressure and probably reduce the incidence of "dirty water". Two particular occurrences were reported that relate to the "dirty water" problem. First, Commissioner Fagone stated that the P.W.D. street sweepers stir up the "dirty water" by opening the hydrant completely when a less forceful pressure would suffice. Second, Superintendent Seites stated that the annual testing of fire hydrants could be adjusted such that a lower water force was used and, therefore, a lower incidence of "dirty water". Mr. Seites informed the Council that the testing should only focus on the availability of water and drainage, not the pressure. This problem should be coordinated with the Fire Department and its needs.

A final area discussed involves the implementation of the Fresh Pond Reservation Task Force. David Vickery reported that the "Pond" proposals would be phased in with \$100,000 from the increased water rates used in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1979. Any proposal will be considered during the budget hearings this spring and the full Council will be passing on the particular portion of the total package. Most of the first year improvements will focus on the immediate area surrounding Kingsley Park and the Water Works building.

The Committee also wants to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club as well as their continued interest in the City's appearance generally and the Reservation in particular.

For the Committee,  
Councillor Kevin Crane  
Chairman

# City of Cambridge

---

In City Council..... February 12, 1979.....

**The** City Council **Committee** on Finance

met on January 24, 1979 to discuss the Capital Improvement Program for the Water Department ~~XXXXXX~~  
~~to which~~ and the implementation of improvements at the Fresh Pond Reservation. In attendance were Public Works Commissioner Conrad Fagone, Water Superintendent John Séites, Assistant City Manager Robert Healy, Assistant City Manager David Vickery, Peter Hahn of the Community Development Department, Ruth Birkhoff of the Water Board and two members from the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club.

It was established that the top priority of the Water Department is the covering of Payson Park, which is a storage facility for treated water before the water is injected into the system. Presently the facility consists of two exposed sections. Atmospheric pollution, such as birds and leaves, couple with vandalism, real and potential, to produce a situation where federal and state ~~Reports~~ quality standards are violated. Discussion focused on the type of cover to be employed as well as the financing of the project. Solutions included a concrete cover with the possibility of community use on top of the surface or some sort of rubber, balloon-type structure or even some sort of floating inflatable mechanism. Commissioner Fagone stated that the latter two solutions would be cheaper and they were being pursued. Financing of the project would entail issuing bonds with the bonds being paid off by proceeds from the recently increased water rates.

An accompanying project is the modification of equipment at the treatment plant. This would include upgrading of pumps, the sludge disposal operation and the treatment for manganese and sodium. Financing of this project would also require the issuance of bonds with the proceeds of the increased water rates amortizing the bonds. The total cost of

F-87

**REPORT**

**Committee on Finance** for meeting held  
January 24, 1979.

In City Council,  
February 12, 1979

2/12/79

Placed on File-