

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 21, 2021      Time: 4:30 PM      Location: Norwell Water Department  
345 Main Street, Norwell

Attendance: Peter Dillon, Fred St. Ours, Steve Ivas and Jack McInnis, Glenn Ferguson

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

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1. All parties were present via Microsoft Teams.
2. Meeting minutes today were not ready for review; the office was working on the new commitment all week.
3. Jack McInnis mentioned two employees are out on bereavement this week; Scott O'Keefe and Marc Spinella.
4. Jack McInnis questioned how samples are being handled at Analytical Balance, a situation arose today with Well #5. Peter Dillon noted Analytical Balance is the lab that most all surrounding towns use. Jack McInnis stated that initially Analytical Balance had reported an issue with a sample however the sample did not turn and appears to have been a false alarm.
5. Glenn Ferguson joined by phoned to give the Board an update on future projects and request the contribution to the spoils pile at the Highway yard. His goals are to complete Circuit Street and replace culverts on Mt. Blue between School and Lincoln Street. Glenn noted he'd prefer to leave water pipes alone during his road work. His work will include upper Lincoln Street between Grove Street and Mt. Blue Street, as well as Prospect Street to the Hingham line, possibly also over to Jacobs Farm. Glenn Ferguson explained when culverts are replaced very little is disturbed. The intended time frame is the first week of June, 2021. Additionally Glenn Ferguson wanted to discuss the removal and processing of spoils pile transfer, last year the transfer was made for \$12k, he is hoping to keep the figure the same as prior year. The funds include the Water Departments use of equipment and soils in Highway yard and the disposal of materials. Fred St. Ours asked if this is part of indirect expenses or not, Jack McInnis said this is different; this is an interdepartmental transfer. Glenn Ferguson stated Norwell Water had 15 water services this past year. Fred St. Ours does not have an issue with the amount but he deferred to Jack McInnis for a decision. Jack McInnis stated the number of road repairs is correct, maybe one or two less. Glenn Ferguson said to view it as \$1k per month, a consensus was reached with the Board at 4:57pm to authorize the fund transfer.
6. Jack McInnis questioned Glenn Ferguson about the new gas main being installed at the River Street bridge on the right side as you approach Scituate (east side), noting that is where the water main crosses. Jack McInnis is thinking of asking if they would cross east to west when adding the gas main so they do not intercept the existing water main. Glenn Ferguson was disconnected from the call so Jack McInnis stated he will follow up with him.

7. Jack McInnis stated the FY22 budget is due this Friday, however not all docs were received until last Friday afternoon. Jack McInnis explained the budget will not be turned over on time. Fred St. Ours offered to look it all over as well. There are some situations that Donna Mangan is not aware of with rates of pay fluctuating depending on staffing circumstances. In some instances when the Treatment Plant operator is out the next person in line will get a higher rate of pay which has to be budgeted in. Donna Snow will also look over the administrative numbers for Jack McInnis.
8. Steve Ivas raised an important topic about whether or not the Water Department can prohibit irrigation hook ups to the town water supply. This is a concern that is raised often. Steve Ivas thinks the Planning Board has the regulatory authority, the Planning Board should investigate. Peter Dillon asked when other towns have done it who initiated that, Steve Ivas offered to do some more homework to find that out. Peter Dillon noted the days of putting in 30 water services a year are gone. If it is up to Planning Board it will only affect new lots. Fred St. Ours noted when irrigation systems leak and people incur a large bill it becomes a real concern. Some public water supplies charge a premium for the irrigation system, Peter Dillon noted it is not possible to go backwards to make that happen.
9. PFAS training- Jack McInnis noted the webinar is full but will be recorded and on you tube for viewing on 2/25/21.
10. Commitment Comparison review – Commitment #3 is higher this year by approx. \$8k. Bills will be sent out on Monday 1/25/21 with due dates of 2/25/21.
11. FY19 financial sheets: Jack McInnis suggested inviting Donna Mangan to a meeting to discuss the sheets. Jack McInnis wants to know surplus revenue but he does not plan to ask for anything this year. The Pilot Study and Route 3 crossing are in the works now, but if rates are low a bond could help.
12. Water Pipe Infrastructure: topic of discussion - do we want to replace old water mains even if we are unsure of the condition of the water mains? Peter Dillon asked two questions: what is the condition of the water main on Circuit Street? - Does anything need to be done on Mt. Blue before Glenn Ferguson paves it? We need to be looking at the water mains but nothing seems to be urgent to meet Glenn's Fergusons immediate schedule.
13. Jack McInnis noted meter replacements and covid-19 protocols will be in place for appointments and suggested telling the homeowner to leave the mechanics alone in the basement. Peter Dillon pointed out some residents may not want someone unattended in their basement. The office has already sent all the letters for failed meters and the office will reiterate the protocols when the appointment is set.
14. Senior Discount discussion on how to review and update accounts. The Board agreed to let Dan Gage compile a list of accounts that do not meet the age criteria and he can check back in with the Board to see how they want to handle making the modification to the accounts.
15. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Steve Ivas seconded; all in favor at 6:05pm.

Accepted: Steve Ivas Date: 08 Feb 21