



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 13, 2023

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Steve Ivas, Peter Dillon, Howard Tufts & Jason Federico

Prepared by: Donna Snow

Meeting Minutes:

Fred St. Ours motioned to the approve meeting minutes from 5/18/23 and 6/1/23, Steve Ivas seconded, all in favor at 4:41pm

Abatement Requests:

1. 75 Ridge Hill Rd – The Board reviewed the request for an abatement. The current owner did not request a final water reading prior to taking ownership of this property. The Board denied the request for the abatement.
2. 5 Fieldstone Way – The Board reviewed the request for an abatement at this location. The usage was a result of a leaking toilet which has since been fixed. The Board approved this abatement at the lowest rate plus the meter fee.
3. 488 Main Street – The Board reviewed the request to reimburse the resident for a tree that died on the property from the yard being saturated. There was a leak in the service line at the water main. Jason Federico suggested the resident plants his own tree and the department will reimburse him for the expense. The Board reached a consensus and approved \$600, less any taxes.

Treatment Plant Project:

Jason Federico is working with the state to complete the necessary paperwork. H2Olson will provide construction oversight and includes other services that are needed. The state has earmarked 25k to Norwell for PFAS, this will pay for the PFAS pilot test work. Jason Federico is waiting for the state's authorization to award the bid.

Service Reconnection Fees:

The Board discussed implementing a new fee for service reconnections. Fred St. Ours inquired why we would charge another fee for homes with an existing service. Jason Federico explained the charge is for homes that are razing or rebuilding the home. Fred St. Ours suggested for these circumstances we should have the rules and applicable fees under a different category. Jason Federico stated the cost is to cover the department's materials. Fred St. Ours feels the water rates should include a certain amount to account for these scenarios. After discussion the Board would consider a fee if a new rebuild requires a different water service. In Marshfield when a home is demolished and rebuilt, they do not assess a new fee. Jason Federico wants all replacements to be 1" service at minimum. Fred St.

Ours would like to see tear downs and rebuilds with existing services as a different category and separate from new service connection fees. Currently the new services are 7k, which allows for a 3k discount on existing residences. Jason Federico will outline a policy for the Board to review at a later meeting before moving forward. Jason Federico advised that the property on Tiffany was increased from a ¾ to 1" and payment is currently being held. Peter Dillon suggested charging 3k for a tear down and rebuild.

Well #9:

Jason Federico informed the Board that the iron and manganese levels at Well #9 are less than the levels leaving South Street. Jason Federico noted the output is set for 50 gallons a minute and running for 6 hrs./day for 5 days/week to determine how long before water quality degrades. This well has not been utilized in years. Peter Dillon said it is approved for 70 gpm. Peter Dillon noted typically in the spring and fall it was not pumped but it was historically fine in the summer. Howard Tufts said the turbidity is showing it is crystal clear. Jason Federico noted if the need arises he can shut a well off and utilize this well and he plans to keep the Board posted.

Fracking:

Jason Federico is currently waiting to hear back from the well driller. Jason Federico confirmed he will have the PFAS levels tested at Well #9 to see what the results are.

Abatement Policy/Commercial:

A commercial account/pizza shop at 432 Washington Street had a large leak – this discussion is postponed for the next meeting as meter reader just finished capturing the readings today and have not been loaded to the system.

Public Communications:

The latest water quality report was issued; the Board would like to review this in the future before it goes out. Jason Federico explained a lot of the language is required by the state and can't be changed.

Washington Street Park:

The Board reviewed plans with Jason Federico; Fred St. Ours wants to have the memorial visible from the street and identified a specific spot on the map.

***Unanticipated:**

- Jason Federico recently learned that Cordwainer Drive is fed by an 8" inch service that runs behind the Big Y. Jason Federico is considering two options 1) replace the service with a 12" water main or 2) tie into the 10" main. The Board reviewed the location for the project which would require an easement for the Town. Peter Dillon said it would have to go through approval at the Town meeting next year for approval.
- Jason Federico briefly discussed the new town hall plans and suggested that the office staff moves to a trailer at South Street Treatment Plant rather than the new building. There would be a lot to consider since the office interacts regularly with accounting, the Board of Health and the Collectors' office. Residents and contractors visiting town hall would not have immediate access to the water office if moved away from the new site. Further discussion can be held since the new building timeline has been pushed out.

- Jason Federico would like to buy a mower that is more industrial; the Board asked if the Highways/Tree & Grounds would manage the grounds; Jason Federico advised Glen Ferguson will not mow certain locations for water. Peter Dillon suggested a lawn tractor instead which would go a lot faster. Jason Federico stated a small mower is too time consuming.
- Jason Federico would like to reduce Board meetings and meet just once a month, returning to a regular schedule in September.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, seconded by Steve Ivas.

Accepted: J. H. Adams Date: 8/3/23

