

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

Date: March 12, 2020

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department  
345 Main Street, Norwell

In Attendance: Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon, Steve Ivas and Water Superintendent Jack McInnis

Guests: Glenn Ferguson

Minutes Prepared By: Donna Snow

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1. The Board members signed abatements, commitments and vouchers.
2. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve meeting minutes from 2/20/20; Peter Dillon seconded, all in favor at 4:40 pm.
3. Donna Snow provided an update for board members on Mt. Blue & Brigantine Circle – one meter was replaced and one meter is schedule for replacement next week. In addition, the leak at 900 Main Street has been resolved and the meter was replaced.
4. The invoice for Maher Services was discussed, Jack McInnis noted it is over 27k which would require a formal bid. Peter Dillon however will write a sole source letter which can be submitted to Accounting.
5. Peter Morin issued an email on 3/11/20 which was sent to all department heads regarding current coronavirus situation and Jack McInnis shared the email with the BOWC.
6. Glenn Ferguson dropped by to discuss purchasing GPS equipment and hopefully sharing this expense with the Water Department. Over the past sixty days Highway has identified basins; however Glenn does not feel his summer help workers can be utilized for this important project. Glenn Ferguson would like markers placed which can be fed into the GIS system and is looking to share the cost of the devices used to identify catch basins and hydrants. Glenn Ferguson explained he needs the Water Department to do the important work of identifying

their gate boxes in advance. Fred St. Ours was amenable to share the cost but requested Glenn Ferguson to come back with a plan and a price. Glenn Ferguson also spoke about the amount of dig safes performed and the damage done to retention basins.

7. The Advisory board meeting is planned for March 24th; Jack McInnis suggested holding a BOWC meeting at 6pm prior to meeting with Advisory Board.
8. The Kopacz Parcel was discussed (it is the land above the bog). Steve Ivas asked if it is worth doing an exploration well. Fred St. Ours asked what is the asking price. Jack McInnis noted a P&S was signed with a third party but the Town has the right of first refusal. Jack McInnis asked what would be the funding source, Steve Ivas said it would be a bond. Peter Dillon remarked that putting in a test well may be a good idea but the email from the Selectman's office doesn't give a timeframe. Peter Dillon explained that the zone one area with sand and gravel make it desirable to look at. Jack McInnis will research the time frame and potential costs, Peter Dillon estimated it could be expensive to purchase.
9. A vernal pool exploration request by Chris Jacobs was granted. Peter Dillon noted it will be interesting to see what their final report contains.
10. Jack McInnis notes the pipe galley at Washington Street has paint flaking off so he plans to get a price from Caldwell to address the situation. The idea would be to take the well off line, prep, prime and paint.
11. Update on a new weather station @ SSTP – the station is failed; and the battery was being replaced every three months and still not downloading data. Jack McInnis states it has been in use for ten years and needs to be replaced, this will cost approximately \$2k.
12. Meter reader/clerk position: Jack McInnis shared Barbara Child's email with board members. Fred St. Ours is in favor of doing what we can to keep a good employee. Peter Dillon pointed out this is lowest grade in the Town and that is what should drive this change. Jack McInnis agreed this should be Grade 6 with no changes to the job description. Fred St. Ours made a

suggestion to let the advisory board know that one-line item may change. Fred St. Ours states the position is much more than a meter-reader and in order to attract a higher quality employee moving forward they can't continue to rate it as a Grade 5. Jack McInnis will follow up with an email to Barbara Childs tomorrow letting her know BOWC is in favor of the upgrade.

13. Treatment Facilities Manager position update: Jack McInnis stated Barbara Childs has nothing to offer him at this point.

14. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor at 6:30 pm

Not Anticipated Item:

- The Board discussed the Water Departments state of emergency pay relative to the existing union contract. Peter Dillon already had a discussion with Peter Morin and was not pleased. In the past there has never been a state of emergency unless weather related. The board members agree the wording in the contract is ambiguous. Jack McInnis assured the board that his staff was not pursuing this emergency pay; that only one individual had inquired. Peter Dillon suggested privatization of the Water Department as an alternative; Cohasset and Hingham do this for a lot less money. Fred St. Ours was not in agreement with the suggestion of privatization.

Accepted: J. H. St. Ours Date: 17 Apr 2020