

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 30, 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

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve meeting minutes from 4/16/20; Peter Dillon seconded, all in favor at 4:38 pm. Fred St. Ours will sign the minutes and drop them off in the drop box at Town Hall next week.
2. An abatement request was made for the resident at 97 River Street; her usage this past quarter was 77,000 gallons of water used when normal usage is typically 5,000 gallons. The reason for the high usage was a leaky toilet that has now been fixed. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve billing this resident at the lowest tier and Steve Ivas seconded. Peter Dillon abstained from the decision and the voting. The vote was two in favor and one abstained.
3. An abatement request was reviewed for the resident at 293 Cross Street, the usage for this past quarter was 30,000 gallons when typically, this resident has no usage during this quarter. The resident did explain that a cracked valve was to explain for the high usage. Steve Ivas is familiar with this location in town. Fred St. Ours motioned to bill the usage at the lowest tier, Peter Dillon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

4. All the commissioners appreciated the fact that Dan Gage reached out to the high usage residents following the recent readings he gathered. Steve Ivas would like Dan Gage to know his conscientious work is appreciated.
5. A comparison was made of FY19 and FY20 commitments and although a large abatement applied to FY19, it still resulted in a large gap of \$365,000 dollars between the two fiscal years. Jack McInnis can take a look at the gallons pumped against the dollars to see if it makes sense. Fred St. Ours would like a second look at the numbers before any decisions are made for the following year. The third quarter of FY19 and FY20 have the greatest gap and Donna Snow will pull together more information for the board to review.
6. Peter Dillon provided an update on the state of emergency due to the cov-19 outbreak. Currently the town has 74 positive cases. Jack McInnis noted working remotely is not ideal although necessary, all work is done via email and phone where many documents are passed back and forth, much different than how things had been before the outbreak. Peter Dillon advised the recent numbers shared on Norwell Social are not completely accurate. Southwood Nursing home is the worst, Road to Responsibility also has a high number with some recovered. Face masks are currently not mandatory in town primarily because they cannot be enforced. Peter Dillon does not anticipate that normal activities will resume quite yet. Today there were 152 deaths and until the numbers flatten things will remain the same. Steve Ivas feels that Governor Charlie Baker is doing a good job handing the pandemic noting that Baker came from a background in the health care industry and that he understands the numbers.

7. This past week Jack McInnis noted spam emails were generated from his Comcast account. Ben Margro was the recipient of the email which contained a suspicious link. Jack McInnis currently has two email addresses one for the Town of Norwell and another at Comcast. Barbara Childs reported other spam emails that she knew were circulating in Town.
8. Donna Snow noted that an abatement was also issued to a resident at 36 Wildcat Lane because his prior billing was estimated yet when his meter was replaced the last usage recorded was actually 10,000 gallons less than what he was billed for. Jack McInnis had approved this decision and the abatement was granted.
9. Jack McInnis provided an update on hiring stating that he does not plan to hire any seasonal help this year. With social distancing a priority it would not be possible as both the seasonal help employees normally share one vehicle. With regard to hiring a Treatment Facilities Manager however Jack McInnis stated he does plan to interview and hire in the next few months. Jack McInnis feels that he may even find more candidates to consider with so many people out of work due to the pandemic.
10. The board discussed Jason Federico's proposal from Ginivan Group LLC. Peter Dillon thinks it is a good price, Peter Dillon motioned to accept the proposal and Fred St. Ours seconded, all in favor at 5:13pm. Jack McInnis offered to initial the proposal on behalf of the board.
11. The next BOWC meeting will be held via Skype on 5/14/20, Peter Dillon will again coordinate this for the group.
12. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor at 5:30 pm

Accepted: Stenhouse Date: 29 MAY 20