

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 11, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.
345 Main Street, Norwell

Attendance: Fred St. Ours, Steve Ivas, Peter Dillon and Superintendent Jack McInnis and Meter Reader Dan Gage

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. Steve Ivas motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 7/15/21; Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor at 6:20pm.
2. Water Restrictions Review: The drought initially prompted the Tier 4 restrictions. Once the drought was lifted the Board did not lift the restrictions in order to keep water demand down. Peter Dillon plans to address color concerns at the BOS meeting later this evening.
3. PFAS Discussion: Peter Dillon prepared a slide show for the BOS this evening and he explained the two most common PFAS are regulated but there are 6 PFAS types in total. Both Well 1 & Well 7 are above the PFAS limit; Well 7 has been off line and Well 1 was blended with Well 6, but will now have to come offline. Jack McInnis explained he was notified two days ago that Well 1 exceeded the DEP's newly defined PFAS limit and therefore public notice is required. Peter Dillon and Fred St. Ours were curious if they shut Well 1 down, could migrate over to Well 6; this is a theory not a fact and will require further testing. PFAS testing is done on a monthly basis now and we are researching how to remove PFAS from the water supply. The PFAS are heat and weather resistant and they repel water which is their primary use. PFAS is found in Dupont, Teflon pans, Gortex, and scotch guard to name a few. This contaminant can even be found in carpeting, food wrappers for some pizza and popcorn containers. Peter Dillon noted even products such as sunscreens, shampoos and other daily products contain PFAS – not all, but some of them. Firefighting foam and fire extinguishers also contain PFAS, it moves easily through the environment and infiltrates the water table getting into ground water and septic systems. The new standard is 20 ppt for Massachusetts, the DEP established new standards for the six most common PFAS. Peter Dillon commented that PFAS was detected in almost all of our wells, however Grove Street is relatively clean. Interestingly the EPA national level is at 70 ppt so the Massachusetts regulated level is considerably lower than EPA standards. Water restrictions have helped manage the quantity of the water that is pumped so the new standards are not exceeded. Jack McInnis advised at one site the well was 4 ppt over the PFAS level; but on

average we are below. Eventually when PFAS is pulled out through filtration it will be sent out and burned off. Fred St. Ours stated we have very little data right now; legislation was just passed in October.

4. **PFAS Solution Review:** Peter Dillon explained the bench scale pilot testing with Carbon is the method used to treat PFAS. Fred St. Ours noted we are in the same situation as Abington, Duxbury and other surrounding towns. Peter Dillon suggested sending inquiries to Jack McInnis relative to PFAS. Jack McInnis advised that his town email is not functioning and prefers the office to obtain emails for residents and he can respond in that manner. Fred St. Ours noted the maximum level that has been set by the DEP represents a level that is safe to drink for a lifetime (20 ppt).
5. **Water Quality:** Organic color is showing up in the water, Steve Ivas noted this is similar to color found from decomposition of leaves. The term is tannins which is soluble and we have no means to remove it from the Grove Street Well. Both Wells 4/10 have color and those are the two highest producing Wells besides Well 1 now. Peter Dillon asked about well 5; Jack McInnis confirmed well 5 is back on now. Peter Dillon suggested a mobile treatment unit could help remove organic color if needed.
6. **Items Not Anticipated:** Peter Dillon noted the outdoor sprinklers for the library will be part of the discussion later with the BOS; Peter Dillon asked the Board to consider this question in advance.
7. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn, Steve Ivas seconded; all in favor at 6:45pm

Accepted: _____

Date: 9/9/21