

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

Date: May 6, 2021

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department  
345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

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1. All parties were present via Zoom conference.
2. Steve Ivas motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 4/15/21; Fred St. Ours seconded, all in favor at 4:41pm.
3. Jason Federico reviewed the Jar testing results with a slide show presentation. The current chemical feed needs an upgrade with permitting through DEP. Jack McInnis questioned why the permit was needed for an upgrade for the chemical feed however Jason Federico had confirmed with DEP. The timeline if work starts today would include an upgrade in May/June; new equipment in June/July and a demonstration test completed in August 2021. Steve Ivas asked what the DEP turnaround time was; Jason Federico stated 30 days. The Board feels as though the Jar testing is straight forward and had no questions. The cost break out slide, total is \$289,760.00 and this proposal was sent to Jack McInnis. Jason Federico explained any and all tasks can be approved independently. The Board suggested they could obtain funding in May at the annual town meeting as a possibility. Peter Dillon hopes that everything can be done inside, Jason Federico assured him that will be looked at. Some discussion was held about the structure of the building and how they could accommodate the changes. Peter Dillon wants to move forward in order to get water back on at South Street. Fred St. Ours inquired about the surrounding towns, he was curious if any of the surrounding towns are facing the same concerns. Jack McInnis noted Well 7 is offline now, but PFAS at Well 9 elevated as a result. Right now task 1&2 should be the priority (cost 31k), the other tasks can be discussed at a later meeting. Peter Dillon suggested authorizing task 1-3 now to address PFAS concerns. Steve Ivas moved to authorize; Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 5:09pm
4. Jack McInnis advised the rain gauge has been ordered and one data dump a day will be represented in the graph.
5. Jack McInnis added PFAS sampling and language in this year's CCR report. Right now only 6 are regulated by Massachusetts and it has not stopped manufacturing

PFAS, it can be found on both clothes and carpets. Peter Dillon feels fortunate that Norwell can do mixing; Abington and Rockland cannot do any mixing. Jack McInnis noted this month he only has 2 samples, the 3<sup>rd</sup> sample will not be taken until July. The plan is for two samples a month until Grove Street is included. Jack McInnis discussed the sample kits which did not come in a cooler. Jack McInnis thought maybe we can set up a direct account with Eurofins; Peter Dillon agreed. Jack McInnis wants to back wash Well 6 only and run Well 1 at 40% and Well 6 at maximum. Fred St. Ours asked about the variability of the test results and the level of confidence. Peter Dillon thinks two samples should be sent to two different labs but the numbers on the spreadsheet are all very similar.

6. Level 1 Assessment/Coliform-Jack McInnis explained that 3 detections at the Washington St corrosion control facility were found. This discovery put Norwell in violation of coliform rule. Under the new rule the Town has to do level 1 assessment and send to CCR but is not required any more sampling. Fred St. Ours asked for clarification and Jack McInnis noted negative for E.coli. Level 1 assessment is a 3 page form that Jack McInnis plans to complete.
7. The fencing for Mr. Barger at 85 Grove St. was discussed. The resident spoke to the conservation agent and spoke to Jack McInnis expressing interest in a fence. Steve Ivas noted we spoke about this two years ago. The resident suggested snow fencing and Peter Dillon noted it does not last very long. Fred St. Ours wants to revisit the location, postpone discussion to next meeting and Peter Dillon suggested the Board meet with him. Donna Snow will check to see if we can hold an in-person meeting for May 20<sup>th</sup>.
8. Discussed 238 Winter Street abatement – resident had a leaking toilet which the landlord did not immediately repair. The Board felt because of his inaction she should not have to pay the high water bill. It was agreed that the tenants bill could be adjusted for normal usage \$73.20 for both January and April. Peter Dillon believes state law requires the landlord pay the water bill. In accordance with state law we need to notify the tenant that bill has to be transferred to owner name and whatever agreement they enter into behind the scenes is up to them. Donna Snow will find the Mass General law language and share with the Board next week.
9. Two accounts discussed: 2262/2263; the owner is deceased & balances on accounts represent meter charges and not usage. Jack McInnis suggested shutting water off at the street and making both accounts inactive. Steve Ivas motioned to abate Fred St. Ours seconded; and all in favor 5:48pm
10. Powder House Lane meter- Alison DeMong has a broken meter which has been recently estimated. The Board will provide Alison's phone number for Dan Gage to go inside to grab her reading. Peter Dillon asked about replacing meters; Jack McInnis advised the distribution staff wants to be fully vaccinated. Peter Dillon

asked who had been vaccinated, Jack McInnis advised some had been but two mechanics are choosing not to be vaccinated. Jack McInnis will provide vaccination update to Peter Dillon in a later email. Peter Dillon affirmed that the Peter Morin would like to start seeing staff return to normal duties as the vaccine has been available now for those who were interested.

11. Pumping numbers were shared in a recent email and it does not look like a lot of water is being used, we have had a lot of rainfall lately and Norwell is no longer in a drought status. Steve Ivas recently bought microclover to test it out and see how it goes, he can report back his findings.
12. Departmental Emails- Peter Dillon explained that Sara Grady sent an email to Jack McInnis town of Norwell account but it was rejected. Town emails can now be accessed without VPN connectivity. The Board is concerned that Jack McInnis may not be seeing town emails and this email is linked on the Town website. Peter Dillon suggested personal email accounts should not be used for town accounts. Steve Ivas thinks all board members should have town of Norwell accounts. Fred St. Ours was not in favor of getting a Town account. Peter Dillon offered to chase down a solution for Jack McInnis email situation.
13. Commitment numbers were shared prior to the meeting and all felt that the new numbers look great.
14. Town Meeting: Article 47 is for Water. Wildcat petition is on the agenda as well, Peter Dillon expects water and septic question to be raised. The project on Wildcat Lane would consist of 27 bedrooms proposed with a 40b project but a lot of misinformation has been presented to date.
15. Steve Ivas motioned to adjourn; Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 6:19pm.

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7/15/21

