

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 6, 2020

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department

345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. All parties were present via Microsoft Teams while we continue to work in a remote environment.
2. Jack McInnis advised the South Street Treatment Plant experienced a power outage from a storm that came through town this week. A large pine tree fell and hit the electrical pole, when staff arrived Paradise Drive was at 62 feet. Distribution staff had to man the generator overnight when power was out. Jack McInnis contacted Laviolette for assistance at Grove Street. Right now power has been restored but cable and Verizon is down. Peter Dillon suggested it is time to take down some of the trees in the area. Steve Ivas offered to help identify the trees that need to be removed. Jason Federico suggested a cellular backup for communications; both Jason Federico and Jack McInnis can talk to Laviolette about this idea.
3. Jason Federico discussed the pilot study, right now the analysis phase is in progress. The time frame was December for crunching the data and February to submit results. Jack McInnis is concerned about both the timing and the funding.
4. Steve Ivas advised he would complete meeting minutes from 7/16/20 and they can be approved at next BOWC meeting. Donna Mangan is awaiting the final meeting minutes.
5. Jack McInnis discussed Tier 4 Restrictions advising that Dan Gage read the town again and was able to find the top 100 users. High consumption letters were sent to 80 residential accounts. Distribution staff worked overtime to monitor watering and find addresses in violation, the office then searched for the locations and issued written warnings. A total of 207 letters have been issue from the office- not all of them were warnings some just indicated high usage.

6. Jack McInnis provided water demand from August 1-5 as follows: 1.436/1.434/1.685/1.601/1.585. He advised that he would send an EMS alert to notify residents of the restrictions. Peter Dillon suggested including the numbers so the data will resonate with the residents, the Board agreed that would be a good idea.
7. Remote working update: both Donna Snow and Dan Gage have been working in the office for the past two weeks to complete the first quarterly billing followed by Water Restriction enforcement. Moving forward they will continue to alternate days in the office and on off days will work remotely. Most of the other departments at Town Hall are still working a hybrid of remote/in office. The Board members appreciate the efforts made by the office.
8. Jack McInnis advised two new subdivisions have submitted applications and connection fees to the office this week for a total of 100k. The connections are 8" taps @ \$50k each; for Schooner Estates and Circuit Street. Each individual connection fee will also bring additional revenue of \$4k to the department.
9. Jack McInnis mentioned 5 acres of land on Lincoln Street and Nancy Hemingway sent a package which was forwarded to the BOWC. Steve Ivas thinks the deadline was missed if issued on June 5th; only 60 days are allowed to respond.
10. Jack McInnis noted South Street has the capacity to pump 650 gpm but is only being used at 500 gpm now. Well #6 can also operate at 350 gpm but is only pumping 200 gpm. Some reserve water is available at Well #10, has slight color but otherwise fine. If Jack McInnis gets no cooperation from residents he will have to pump water from #10. The Board has no problem with using that reserve water. Water quality and pressure will become an issue if demand does not lessen.
11. Peter Dillon provided an update on a resident's billing – Meg Doherty. She now receives paper bills and she did have a visit from a distribution mechanic who noted the flapper on her toilet was an issue. The usage report was sent to the Board members to review so an abatement can be considered.
12. Jack McInnis mentioned a home at 28 Arrowhead Drive who had unusually high consumption (64,000 gallons in 14 days); both Dan Gage and John McGloin visited the location but could not make contact with the resident. Dan Gage however took another reading this week and usage returned to normal.
13. Steve Ivas motioned to adjourn; Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 5:35pm

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

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