

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS **MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 1st, 2019

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department
345 Main Street, Norwell

In attendance: Steve Ivas, Peter Dillon, Fred St. Ours, Jack McInnis

BOWC Meeting Minutes prepared by: Allen Perlin

1. The Board members signed abatements, commitments and vouchers. One particular abatement was discussed regarding an encumbrance from Direct Energy from FY19. NWD has been operating under the impression that an energy agreement with Kearsage is in place. Kearsage handles most of the energy and distribution charges for NWD and applies solar credits to the bill. Kearsage takes 87 cents on the dollar for the solar credits, and NWD gets the 13 cents remaining. Correspondence with Accounting and the Town Administrator prior to the end of FY19 indicated that this agreement is still in place. However, Accounting recently brought ten unpaid invoices totaling over \$9000 from Direct Energy to the attention of NWD. There does not seem to be consensus or understanding at Town Hall about the specifics of the agreement. The Board of Water Commissioners would like to know what NWD pays to Kearsage, what NWD pays to Direct Energy, and what is paid to National Grid. Potentially, it will be cheaper for NWD to pay directly for energy and distribution. NWD used to have an agreement with Netsun through the Schools, and this agreement provided far more savings. The Board of Water Commissioners signed the abatement.
2. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve meeting minutes from 7/18/19, Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve meeting minutes from 5/16/19, Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor.

3. The 4-acre parcel on Grove Street was surveyed by Merrill this summer. An abutter requested that NWD install privacy fence, or at least shrubbery, along the property line to provide additional privacy for an outdoor shower. The survey revealed that the abutter's shed extends seven or eight feet over the property line into the 4-acre parcel. A second abutter's driveway also extends into the 4-acre parcel. NWD has not heard from either abutter since the survey was completed. At this point, discussion of privacy fencing or shrubbery is tabled. The Conservation Commission is helping NWD procure a kiosk for the parking area within the parcel.
4. Meeting with Conservation Commission regarding Simon Hill pathways: The Conservation Commission would like to install a simple pathway, constructed of parallel 8" wide beams mounted on 4"x4" supports. This construction material is non-permanent, with no footings so it can be easily moved. However, the beams are long enough that there is no risk of floating. The path should connect two dry knolls. There are two possible routes; conservation land to conservation land is one option. The other path crosses through some NWD land in the Bowker Street wellfield. Considerations for the slope and elevation of the path make the second option more ideal. The Board of Water Commissioners approves by consensus. Additionally, NWD agrees to consider moving the gate at the Bowker Street wellfield to allow for additional parking. Connecting these trails will extend the Norwell greenway, with potential connections to Wompatuck on Grove Street once those trails come through. The Conservation Commission has filed an N.O.I. but not an R.D.A.
5. With regards to current water demands, Peter Dillon put it best: NWD finds itself in a great position to maximize water revenue without over-pumping or taxing the system. Groundwater levels are adequate to continue pumping at the current rate, and NWD even has reserve capacity should it be needed. At the August 3rd meeting during FY19, the Board

of Water Commissioners voted to increase the tiered water restrictions to Tier 3 because the Indian Head River streamflow gauge had been under the 4.9 cfs threshold for more than three days. At the time of this meeting, the streamflow gauge is above 14 cfs, so no increased tier restrictions are currently necessary. Fred St. Ours mentioned once again that the Tier 1 signs need to be taken down after the summer ends and put back up sometime in April.

6. There have been numerous radio communication issues at Well #2 and Well #5. Well #2 was experiencing communication failures, which occur after 20 minutes without a good radio poll, nearly every day. Allen Perlin, the Water Treatment Facilities Manager, realized that the communication antenna was misaligned by an angle of about 10 degrees and adjusted it accordingly. This has improved the communication, but not completely fixed the problem. Both Well #2 and Well #5 enter communication failure every few days. The causes of the communication failures are most likely attributable to atmospheric conditions, elevation within the wellfield, and distance to the repeater at Paradise Drive. NWD reached out to Dean Marengi, Vice President of TCS Corporation and a frequent NWD contractor for radio equipment procurement and maintenance. There is consensus amongst Board members to have Dean Marengi in to troubleshoot.
7. NWD still has vacant positions for Meter Reader/Clerk and Water System Mechanic Trainee. Barbara Childs has received more applications and is putting together a short list of candidates for consideration for both positions. NWD would like to emphasize the meter installation component of the Meter Reader position.
8. Unforeseen items:
 - a. Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson stopped by to advise he will be doing culvert repair on Bowker Street before the start of the school year. He is encouraging NWD

to install new sections of water main while the trenches are open. Water Superintendent Jack McInnis is considering placing capped sections of water main alongside the exposed sections of main during the culvert repair. This will be a relatively easy project and will facilitate easy repairs in the future.

- b. NWD received an email from MassDEP regarding the Water Management Act permit. A 2006 draft permit was apparently not completed to MassDEP satisfaction, particularly sections regarding the Zone II approvals for the Grove Street wellfield, and because of it MassDEP seems to indicate that NWD is required to return to 1999 pumping restrictions, even though a new agreement for a combined 0.64 MGD pumping restriction was reached in 2002. The email is not well constructed and does not give a clear impression of the request from MassDEP. Peter Dillon is confident there is correspondence from 2006 addressing the issue, and that it can be resolved by contacting an agent at MassDEP who was on staff in 2006 when the draft permit was put together

9. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor at 5:51 pm.

Accepted: J. H. [Signature] Date: 9/5/19