

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 4, 2021 Time: 4:30 PM Location: Norwell Water Department
345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. All parties were present via Microsoft Teams.
2. Steve Ivas motioned to approve minutes from 1/7/21 and 1/21/21; Peter Dillon seconded and all in favor at 4:46pm.
3. Discussion regarding: 15 May Elm Lane where resident had a leaking toilet that they could not hear as they are elderly. Peter Dillon and Steve Ivas are sympathetic and willing to abate the bill but waited for Fred St. Ours to join the meeting. Current bill is \$485.01, if it was billed at the lowest tier the charge would be \$364.20, for a total savings of \$120.81. All the board members reviewed the usage history and typically the bills are below \$100. Peter Dillon would like see seniors in these situation receive a fair adjustment and the Board agreed to make an adjustment to bring the bill down to match usage from Jan. 2020, this would provide a greater savings. The Board reached a consensus on charging \$78.97 which is a typical January water bill. The savings/abatement will be \$406.04 and Donna Snow will process it.
4. FY22 Budget-Jack McInnis submitted NWD budget to the Board and to the Accounting office. Some changes included the Professional Services with an increase of \$10k for PFAS. The Contractor Services line increased \$20k due to the new contract with PA Landers as they are more expensive than JM Currie had been. Jack McInnis mentioned D'Alessandro can also be utilized since it is not an exclusive contract. The Leaks & New Services line also increased due to the cost of brass and hydrants. Jack McInnis pointed out the contribution to highway department comes from the Leaks & New Services line. Treatment Plant Operating also increase to \$50k however the Chemical Expense line dropped because over the past few years this expense has been less than what was budgeted for.
5. A brief talk about current and planned 40B projects in Town came up, a new one in the area of Wildcat Lane is in the early stages. Jack McInnis did receive a call recently from Mass Development about this project.
6. Indirect Costs Sheet – Jack McInnis shared both FY21 and FY22 numbers with the Board. Jack McInnis pointed out in FY21 the number was \$376k and now in FY22 the increase was slightly more totaling \$377k. The Board was fine with the cost worksheet, no questions. Fred St. Ours moved to approve the indirect expenses, Steve Ivas seconded all in favor at 5:17pm.
7. PFAS Sampling update – Peter Dillon spent time compiling sampling data which took a couple of hours, samples went out and were packed with ice. Peter Dillon suggested results will take about a month before they come back, could be back by the end of

February. Sample points included Wells 1&6, Well 6 - raw water, Well 1 - raw water, Wells 7/8/4 - raw water; also Wells 7/8/4 combined, Wells 5/10/2 combined. Both well #3 and well #9 are offline.

8. TFM Position update – all vacant positions are being hired, recently the Town added a new Assessor, Conservation Agent and new Police Chief. Jack McInnis reached out to Barbara Childs just today to start the process to fill the Treatment Plant Manager position. The Board was agreeable to moving forward to hire someone who would be a hybrid of office help and hands on work to assist Marc Spinella when necessary.
9. Update on Verizon land lines – The office was informed on Jan. 12th from Accounting that no payments were to be issued after the Water Dept. had identified 8 lost checks. On January 26th Donna Snow inquired on the status of the stop payments and if they were reissued and had no response. In December payments to Verizon were removed from the voucher, no payments have been issue since November. The Board suggested to voucher all five land lines, if push back from Accounting Fred St. Ours offered to assist.
10. Discount list prepared by Dan Gage was reviewed which identified all the accounts that do not seem to qualify for the water discount by age. Currently residents 60 years of age or older are eligible for a 10% discount. In some cases the owner has passed away, and in other situations the property is being rented. The Board would like to give this topic more thought and table it for the next meeting.
11. Steve Ivas motioned to adjourn; Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 6:02pm.

Accepted: Stinuba Date: 18 Feb 21