

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 21st, 2019

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department
345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Minutes Prepared By: Allen Perlin

1. The Board members signed abatements, commitments and vouchers.
2. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve Meeting Minutes from 11/7/19; Peter Dillon seconded, all in favor at 4:50 pm.
3. Allen Perlin's resignation was announced and his resignation letter circulated. Barbara Childs will consult with Superintendent Jack McInnis to fast track the hiring process for a new Water Treatment Facilities Manager.
4. Barbara Childs announced she has received more than 300 applicants for the Distribution Mechanic Trainee position. This list will be narrowed down by Superintendent Jack McInnis to a list of finalists who will be sent interview requests.
5. The Philip Drive Tank rehabilitation is nearing completion. About \$100k has yet to be paid out, including the 5% retainage. All the exterior painting is done. Installation of the stainless-steel finial and a safety guard around the tank ladder are pending. Additional grout work around the bottom of the tank is also required. The contractor is currently working on the interior dome, using a dehumidifier and heater to create a climate-controlled environment that should help avoid any more weather delays. NWD has several additional painting projects- pipes at the South Street and Washington Street treatment facilities that need to be repainted- and the aforementioned Contractor may be asked for a quote.
6. PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are all over the news and NWD should be prepared to field calls regarding the presence of PFAS in the Town water supply. NWD tested

for PFAS in the EPA-mandated UCMR3 testing set, conducted in 2013. Based on the 2013 detection limits for the analytical chemistry lab that completed the testing, any PFAS results from Town of Norwell water were below the detection limits and recorded as non-detects, i.e. no PFAS were detected in the samples. NWD will wait for a directive from MassDEP or the EPA to conduct more PFAS testing. MassDEP and the EPA are finalizing risk assessments and will most likely set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS by the end of the year.

Should NWD find PFAS in the water supply once additional PFAS sampling is conducted, NWD will have to implement additional treatment. This additional treatment will most likely take the form of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment, which has additional benefits for removal of organic color. GAC treatment may be possible to implement without a new structure.

7. Based on UCMR 4 results received after testing done in April 2019, there are elevated levels of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) at Wells #6, 4 and 10. NWD would like to pilot new treatment techniques, particularly in the Grove Street Wellfield to restore Well #10 to its full capacity. The proposed treatment method of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) may be relatively cheap to implement at Well #10 and could serve a dual purpose of reducing TOC and thereby cutting down on Disinfection Byproducts, and potentially providing PFAS removal if the substances are identified in the Town water supply. The water from each wellfield also contains manganese, which cannot be removed with GAC. Installation of a manganese greensand filtration facility in the Grove Street Wellfield may eventually be required. Jason Frederico will be consulted for the proposed treatment pilot study.
8. NWD is now a member of DigSafe. Donna Snow, the Administrative Assistant for NWD, will receive all non-emergency DigSafe markout requests and generate the appropriate work

orders. Emergency requests will go through the Comm Center to get to the Standby Operator. The cost for membership is \$1 per markout request.

9. The abatement request for 151 Grove Street was considered by the Board. The bill in question was issued during the calendar year 2018. Interrogation of the meter failed multiple times based on work orders completed by Meter Reader Amanda Kayiales. However, the meter was reading properly, and subsequent billing events were unremarkable. The Board concluded that the amount of water shown on the bill did pass through the meter, indicating a leak was the likely culprit. Fred St. Ours proposed billing the resident at the lowest tier for the total water used and waiving all penalties. Peter Dillon seconded. Unanimous at 5:35 pm. An additional abatement request for 38 Winter Street was considered. This was not a posted agenda item as the request was received after the agenda was posted. The Resident's bill was higher than their usual bill for third quarter usage. The Resident described an irrigation malfunction caused by power outages during the October windstorm. The irrigation started coming on intermittently and the Resident was unable to shut it off for a time. The Board does not think NWD should be responsible for electrical outages or equipment malfunctions. Being that the water did flow through the meter, Fred St. Ours motioned to reject the abatement request. Peter Dillon seconded. Unanimous at 5:51 pm.
10. NWD would like to conduct a pilot study for additional treatment at the Grove Street Wellfield. Funding will likely come from a special article request for FY21. Peter Dillon advised that before any study, Well #3 should be reinstated. However, Well #3 has diminished capacity and the capacity may need to be reallocated. In the meantime, some additional treatment could help bring Well #10 back to its full capacity of 350 gpm. TOC levels in all wellfields can be treated with implementation of GAC treatment.
11. The Board looked over financial sheets from the close of FY19. Line budget worksheets are due by Dec. 20th. NWD is in good shape financially, even after the tank rehabilitation costs

exceeding \$500k are posted for FY20. The Board has several questions regarding the terms listed on the financial sheets, specifically the meaning of "Fund Equity".

Unforeseen:

-FY21 Budget/Line worksheet is considered. NWD may increase the Leaks/New Services line for FY21

-For Kings Landing, water service connection fees are set at \$4000 for a 1" service. However, since the residences on Kings Landing were existing residences before the increase in connection fees in 2017, the residents should all be eligible for a 25% discount. So far, only one resident has paid the connection fee to connect to the water main on Kings Landing, and this resident did receive the 25% discount.

-Third Herring Brook Monitoring Plan is supposed to be in place and should have been in place starting last winter. This plan should be implemented as soon as possible to keep NWD in compliance with the South Coastal Basin Water Management Act Permit.

12. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Peter Dillon seconded; all in favor at 6:23 pm.

Accepted: Stauf-Is Date: 05 Dec 19