

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 4, 2021

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Department
345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Guest: Ben Margro (Board of Health)

Minutes Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. All parties were present via Microsoft teams for tonight's meeting including the Board of Health agent Ben Margro.
2. Fred St. Ours motioned to approve meeting minutes from 2/18/21; Steve Ivas seconded; all in favor at 4:41pm.
3. Peter Dillon explained that the PFAS resampling was done, both wells 6&1 are now combined but if results come back over 20 public notice will be necessary. Well 7 was not pumping but it was sampled anyhow. Peter Dillon noted the sampling done near the Fire Station maybe an issue. Fred St. Ours asked if the Fire Department had been notified, Peter Dillon felt that after the second set of PFAS sampling was done we could reach out. Peter Dillon informed the Board that the April sampling requirements had been delivered to Jack McInnis. Jack McInnis advised that it is the lab that posts the data. Peter Dillon informed the Board that the monthly PFAS will be a requirement at three points where it enters the system.
4. Jack McInnis expressed the need for an air compressor which is requested under the Capital outlay. Jack McInnis explained that he was advised by Peter Morin that these requests are typically submitted in January. The department needs an air compressor that would be funded with water surplus for 24k. Jack McInnis also informed the Board that Peter Morin is negotiating wages right now for ASCME union. Jack McInnis asked the Board if they need article funds so he can notify Donna Mangan in accounting. Peter Dillon suggested that Jack McInnis reach out to Jason Federico. Peter Dillon advised the warrant will be opened for something unrelated to water that he needs to add, but advised Jack McInnis he has to move quick on his request. The article will be for treatment modifications but a real number is needed before the article can be requested. Jack McInnis mentioned that an article and bond may be required; one bond is currently open for the cross country water main (all other bonds have been retired).
5. Discuss 9 Homestead Farm Drive: The resident at this location had his meter replaced in December at which time he indicated he was on private well water only. The water office followed up with BOH to verify the existence of a private drinking well and learned the well on property was permitted for irrigation only. After a complete review of the existing well Ben Margro explained the well does not meet the setbacks to the septic system. Ben Margro plans to have a phone conversation on Monday; 3/8/21 with the homeowner. Right now the well setback is 55 feet and cannot be converted to a drinking well; in

addition, Ben Margro learned after talking to the well driller that the well is not fully sealed. Ben Margro explained that the resident tied a non-potable water source to his home which is a Public Health violation. Ben Margro also expressed concern for a potential cross connection that exists. Ben Margro noted a new meter had been installed in December and water was left on at the street. Peter Dillon explained the situation is a violation of title 5 with an irrigation well into a public drinking water supply. Jack McInnis confirmed he will act quickly and shut water off at the street and the plumbing will also be flushed so the public water supply is not compromised. Ben Margro will be following up with the resident on Monday; Jack McInnis will wait for that conversation before making any changes to the service connection. Jack McInnis explained normally the distribution mechanics inspect the set up for a half hour and only a handful of accounts have active Town water and private well water. Jack McInnis noted that 150-200 devices are outsourced by water safety services and are in compliance. Peter Dillon confirmed he is comfortable on the commercial side, the regulations for residential side is however very specific and a backflow program is needed for residential homes. Ben Margro explained his office can assist with properties where the Water Department requires the right to enter and inspect.

6. Discuss: 310CMR22.22 violations – Peter Dillon noted other residents with private wells and Town supply, these must be disconnected or a program to comply needs to be implemented. Both Ben Margro and Peter Dillon explained the question is does the Water Department want to allow backflow prevention or just keep the Town service disconnected. Jack McInnis explained pressure vacuum breakers are permitted by the Building Inspector, not Water Department. Jack McInnis explained this is not a task public water suppliers get involved in. Fred St. Ours was in favor of a physical disconnection. Peter Dillon was also in favor of disconnection and not a backflow prevention system. Ben Margro reviewed the current bylaws and rules & regulations where the Water Department has the right to inspect for cross connection and leak detection. Ben Margro explained his office operates as a checks and balance for the Water Dept., if there is a situation where the resident will not allow entry and they could be violating a public water supply the two departments can work in tandem with one another to resolve the situation. Jack McInnis confirmed two mechanics in water are licensed for reviewing backflow prevention. Ben Margro explained situations such as replacing equipment, cross connections and leak detection require a right of entry. Peter Dillon concluded that water will be shut off as of Monday but the resident will eventually need to go back to public water due to non-potable source from his private well. To re-establish the water supply the Water Dept. needs to set forth the required protocol. Ben Margro suggested looking at model rules and regulations to prepare to deal with these situations. Ben Margro specifically suggested stating what a cross connection definition is, and explained that even a temporary connection is not permitted. Ben Margro moving forward will be requiring approval from NWD to ensure no cross connections exist when well permits are requested. Donna Snow inquired if the water bill could still be abated and the Board confirmed it was okay to proceed.
7. Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic – Peter Dillon advised that both Ben Margro and Susan Curtin did a great job and ran the clinic efficiently with three cars in at a time. They were able to accommodate 300 vehicles in morning and 60 more in the afternoon.

8. Library Surplus Fixtures-Steve Ivas suggested to take a look at the items that the Water Department would want.
9. Verizon update- no response to the BOWC memo that was dropped off by Dan Gage on 2/19/21. Fred St. Ours offered to submit the Verizon memo to accounting himself, we are still past due from lost checks and payments that were removed from a prior voucher.
10. ASCME union is negotiating with Peter Morin with retro back to July and another 2% this coming year. Jack McInnis explained three employees will receive another \$500 in longevity pay as well.
11. Bulk processing-no recent issues but the office still finds this an important issue to resolve. Fred St. Ours stated we do not want our payments to be included with other department payments, and made that a motion, Steve Ivas seconded, and all in favor at 5:52pm.
12. Senior discounts: Peter Dillon said the bylaw language needs to be updated to address issues such as tenant situations. Other scenarios include people who seem to have inherited the discount from a family member who had passed away. One option is to use Dan Gage's list and remove any discounts in question and force residents to call the office to clarify. Peter Dillon believes the language must state eligibility for primary residence and primary owner. The concern is however that the residents list is not extensive enough since it is only for registered voters. Peter Dillon offered to write a letter so the office can send by mail to re-verify discounts. The letter will request the resident to contact the office to verify age otherwise the office will remove the discount if no response is received.
13. Annual Statistical report is due and Jack McInnis is currently working on it.
14. Third Herring Brook -The monitoring points are on display with solar arrays on top. Peter Dillon would eventually like to get it on to our website. Daily pumping records for 1 and 6 will need to go to the State. Peter Dillon also noted a rock will need to be moved, which spans approximately four square feet. [S. Ivas viewed the rock and said that there would be no issue with moving it the next day.]
15. Jack McInnis advised they had a tree come down at Grove Street. Jack McInnis explained that by blending the water it will reduce the water available for irrigation and restrictions will have to come into play soon. Fred St. Ours would like a reminder sent to Fire Station that they work in a sensitive area with relation to chemicals and foam that they use, Jack McInnis offered to communicate with them.
16. River St. and Common St. water main work on Wednesday; March 3, 2021: Jack McInnis explained the repair yesterday had the crew out until 3AM due to unanticipated issues. Jack McInnis explained they had many hands on deck and he departed at 8pm.
17. Fred St. Ours motioned to adjourn; Steve Ivas seconded; all in favor at 6:16pm.

Accepted: Steve Ivas Date: 19 MAR 21