

## **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 27, 2022

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.  
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon and Steve Ivas (by phone).

Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. Steve Ivas motioned to approve the minutes of 1/13/22, Fred St. Ours seconded all in favor at 4:40 PM.
2. Norwell Middle School Leak has been resolved. The leak was found in the Science lab. Warren MacCallum initially did not think there was a leak, Steve Gatanti could hear noise at a faucet and shut the valve off. The fixture under the sink broke and the water ran into the drainpipe and out to the septic system. Steve Gatanti is uncertain if it was fixed, but he does know it was shut off.
3. The Board wanted to know the details pertaining to a leak at 49 Lincoln Street in December. The leak occurred the week of Christmas and Steve Gatanti recommended replacing whole service. The contractor was digging in the area where the water was breaking out, but the leak was not located. The contractor that was hired is an excavator, and at some point, during the day when the water staff was not on site the contractor broke the curb stop by turning it the wrong way. Steve Gatanti noted all mechanics were on scene at different intervals, but John McGloin did have a meter appointment and did have to leave, and it was during that period that the contractor broke the curb stop. Steve Gatanti did make repairs to fix the curb stop. John Hoadley was also called on scene to assist with the leak detection. Steve Gatanti did furnish the resident with a contractor list but none of them were available. Glen Ferguson provided the resident with the contractor who was on scene. The service never got repaired and, in the spring, it will be addressed as the property is being sold. Steve Gatanti acknowledged it was a frustrating situation not being able to identify where the service line is for this old water service. Peter Dillon affirmed it is not our responsibility to maintain records on private property.
4. Air compressor quotes were presented by Steve Gatanti. Fred St. Ours asked to increase the Department's request for an air compressor to 27k. Fred St. Ours asked if Water Department can use Highway's air compressor, Steve Gatanti noted often times it's not available. Steve Gatanti said it is needed during the winter to locate curb stops and when they mole under the streets.
5. Peter Dillon suggested to increase the Department's truck request to 42k, the current truck will be traded for between \$7,500-10k. Steve Gatanti noted vehicles can be purchased from MHQ and Liberty Chevrolet. Fred St. Ours requested that Steve Gatanti prepare a list of reasons why the truck is being requested. The obvious reason Steve Gatanti stated was the vehicle is 11 years old and is starting to show its age.

6. The Board reviewed storm preparation measures for the weekends approaching storm. Four of the wells have electricity; if Washington Street goes down then wells 5/10/1 will have to be run during the storm. Steve Gatanti noted a spare chlorine pump can be injected into the system. Steve Gatanti performed a backflushed of the lines today and it prompted a few complaints at the office. Peter Dillon discussed chlorination and it was agreed that the only reason to chlorinate is if you are handling the water if we are not handling the water maybe we do not need to chlorinate. Fred St. Ours approved running well 1 without chlorine if we need it in an emergency. Steve Gatanti noted a 75-100 watt generator is needed but the Town doesn't have one. Well one has 75-watt generator right now. Fred St. Ours said make sure the tanks are full then shut off the domestic pump at Phillips drive; let it pump in but not pump out. Peter Dillon asked if the South Street Treatment plant can be turned back on, Steve Gatanti advised (no) parts are missing.
7. Southwood Nursing home break: Steve Gatanti had to call D'Allessandro in to help demolish a concrete pad to make the repair. The break occurred on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
8. Judges Hill access road discussion, Peter Dillon suggested adding electric gates previously. Mt. Blue side is paved, and Steve Ivas thinks we must fix the access point at Mr. Cannon's side or abandon this entry point and utilize the other access point. Fred St. Ours believes Gallagher paved the road, but we still own it.
9. Fred St. Ours asked about last water quality/color issues that occurred – Steve Gatanti noted he did a backwash and color was ok, but the turbidity meter and alarms were not working.
10. Abatement at 28 Cushing Hill usage was high resulting from a leaking toilet. Both Dan Gage and Scott O'Keefe visited the residence this week. Fred St. Ours suggested to bill all usage at the lowest rate to give some relief to resident, Peter Dillon agreed.
11. Commitment Comparison-revenue is down, a rate increase is possible. Peter Dillon suggested a commercial tier for lawn watering, the Board will need to decide which part of the revenue needs to increase.
12. Town Hall renovation, Peter Dillon offered to talk to the Select Board. The water office is not represented on the current building plans.
13. The Board agreed to invite Glen Ferguson to their next meeting on 2/10/22 to discuss the Water Departments annual contribution to the spoils pile.
14. Peter Dillon asked to get the current balances on the open articles for the next meeting. In addition to that, Fred St. Ours noted it would be helpful to see the revenue by Tier from the last commitment which shows commercial, residential, and municipal.

Steve Ivas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:30 PM, seconded by Peter Dillon.

Accepted:



Date:

3/17/22