

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

Date: February 10, 2022

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.  
345 Main Street, Norwell

**Present:** Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon, Darleen Sullivan, Christine McCarthy and Glen Ferguson

**Prepared by:** Donna Snow

1. This week's meeting minutes were postponed until the next meeting.
2. Steve Ivas was not available for this meeting.
3. The Board discussed a laundry reimbursement for the resident at 11 Chittenden Lane, she had discolored water back in October, but just recently presented her claim. Peter Dillon recalled at a past meeting it was decided that the reimbursement was capped at \$100 maximum. The Board approved the requested abatement for \$100 based on the itemization provided to the office.
4. The Board discussed an abatement request for 428 River Street. This resident incurred a bill for an estimated reading when a new meter was installed back in July. The Board approved an abatement for \$87.75 to remove the estimated read in October. The mechanic who did the replacement did not submit a completed work order to the office which is why the office had to initially estimate the reading. Peter Dillon motioned to approve, Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 4:25pm
5. The Board discussed Jack McInnis's absence and plans to prepare a memo for the foreman to review/approve timecards for hours worked for Distribution staff during the Superintendents absence.
6. The Board met with Christine McCarthy our Town Accountant to discuss FY23 indirect expenses. Christine McCarthy informed the Board that the percentage contribution is not changing. In fact, two of the allocated expenses are less than the prior year, that being Health Insurance and Medicare. Fred St. Ours pointed out that all municipal accounts, including schools are not billed for their water use, the office processes abatements for those accounts on a quarterly basis. Peter Dillon also informed Christine McCarthy of a recent Middle School leak which resulted in 10x the amount of water normally consumed. Because municipal bills are not mailed this leak could have easily gone undetected. The office however, while reviewing the newest consumption records recognized the high usage. Donna Snow reached out to the facilities person at Town Hall and asked them to inform the Middle School that a possible leak existed. Eventually the leak was identified with the help of the Water Department foreman and Hoadley plumbing.
7. Peter Dillon and Fred St. Ours discussed the recent challenges with PFAS and noted that the South Street treatment plant is current offline. To remove PFAS a treatment process will need to be designed and built; the plan initially will call for the treatment outside the existing building. Peter Dillon explained down the road changes to the treatment can be made. Both Fred St. Ours and Peter Dillon noted revenue is down now likely resulting from PFAS concerns and water restrictions. The federal standard for PFAS is 70ppt (parts per trillion) but state standard is 20ppt much more stringent. The PFAS levels

found at South Street tested at 26ppt slightly higher than the state threshold. The PFAS level for Washington Street tested at 18ppt and the results for Grove Street came in close to 5ppt, far below the state standard. Peter Dillon explained PFAS is found in everyday items and has been around for a long time. Some examples he mentioned included: Teflon pans, firefighting foam, some fast-food packaging, gor-tex, etc. The challenge Fred St. Ours noted is that the PFAS testing results take a long time so we cannot react to the findings quickly. Peter Dillon explained they plan to order approx. 6 vessels to remove PFAS. Additional well exploration is needed to find additional water sources for the Town. Even when a process has been implemented the Department may shut South Street off for the winter. The plan is to use Granulated Activated Carbon to remove PFAS from the water. Darleen Sullivan asked how long to implement the PFAS solution; Peter Dillon stated they need to go to the Advisory Board for funding first. Peter Dillon advised some grants are available for bottled water for residents to fill up. If that must be done the location for a water station would be on Grove Street.

8. Christine McCarthy provided some balances for article monies and further explained the indirect expenses. Fred St. Ours noted the amount went up for highway indirect expense from 30 to 42k; which is a 12k increase. The indirect expense for Highway is for hard surfaces which is different than the contribution towards the spoils pile which is handled by transfer of monies through a journal entry. Peter Dillon motioned to approve indirect costs as presented; Fred St. Ours seconded, all in favor at 5:10pm. The bottom line for indirect expenses agreed to was \$361,865.00.

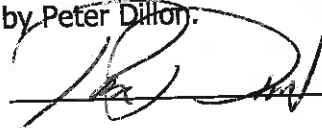
9. Glen Ferguson indicated in the past 12k was the contribution for the spoils pile but feels it is on the low side. Last year he noted we had some large water breaks on Circuit Street, Common Street, River Street and Meadowbrook Road, for those reasons Glen Ferguson feels as though 15k is more accurate. Peter Dillon motioned to transfer 15k from Water Department budget to Highway Department, Fred St. Ours seconded all in favor at 5:44pm. Peter Dillon suggested the funds come from the meters/hydrants line of the budget.

10. Glen Ferguson proposed adding two new seats to the Board of Water Commissioners, himself, and Andy Reardon. Fred St. Ours noted that the board members are elected, and he welcomed for them to attend any of the water meetings but declined the suggestion stating that the department needed to address important matters including PFAS and felt as though adding members would not be productive. Peter Dillon agreed they could contribute to board meetings and are welcome to come anytime.

11. Glen Ferguson outlined his plans for 2022 indicating the following roads are on his list for paving: Ridge Hill, Cape Cod Lane, upper Mt. Blue from Lincoln to Mt. Hope; a portion of River Street to Dover/West Street, also upper Lincoln Street from Grove St to Mt. Blue. Glen Ferguson pointed out there are some low hydrants on Mt. Blue that may need to be raised. The office will share these plans with the water foreman so he can inspect hydrants to see what needs to be replaced. Glen Ferguson also noted he will plow Hoop Pole Lane, Paradise Drive, and rental unit at Stetson shrine but no others. Peter Dillon asked Glen Ferguson about fixing the road at Judge's Hill to put millings in, so that the entrance at Judges Hill can be abandoned and another entrance can be used.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM, seconded by Peter Dillon.

Accepted:

 Date: 3/17/22