

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: June 2, 2022

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Steve Ivas, Peter Dillon and Water Superintendent Jason Federico

Prepared by: Donna Snow

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Steve Ivas made a motion to approve meeting minutes from May 19, 2022, Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 5:48pm.
2. **Department Update:** Jason Federico advised that there will be no more spending through the end of the fiscal year. Jason Federico explained the KOH order was cancelled again by the supplier. Fred St. Ours asked about the weekend overtime practices and made a few suggestions on how the time can be better managed. Currently if a distribution mechanic comes in over the weekend the Department pays for a minimum of four hours even if the employee works for thirty minutes or less.
3. **Department staff update:** John McGloin officially retires in September 2022, and another mechanic needs a license by July 1st; the employee requiring the license has been with Norwell water three years and has not obtained the necessary licenses. Jason Federico advised he intends to replace John McGloin's position with someone who can work in treatment since currently only one treatment position exists.
4. **Water Connection Fees:** Jason Federico explained that he took the current asset value of twelve million and divided by the number of water accounts we have. All the numbers are hypothetical, Fred St. Ours was reluctant to use the formula to make changes at this time. Fred St. Ours explained years ago residents primarily had a well and the challenge was to attract new customers to connect to the Town water. Jason Federico advised in Pembroke residents cannot connect their irrigation to Town water and a private well is on average \$20k. Steve Ivas requested that Jason Federico research how we can prohibit new customers from connecting their irrigation to the Town supply. Jason Federico advised when a new water service is completed, it is possible to deed restrict them for irrigation, but the challenge is what happens when they violate the restriction? Fred St. Ours feels as though we must find another source of water to combat high usage from lawn irrigation.
5. **Rates and Fees:** Jason Federico looked at 10 years of tiered water billing and found 1.6 million on average for last ten years. Abatements account for on average approximately \$37k. Jason Federico reviewed current rates with each rate a ratio of the base. His concept is to reallocate the rates, keeping the base the same. Fred St. Ours feels we should be making 2

million a year and can discuss changes at a future meeting. Jason Federico is concerned about why the Department is not getting credited on the indirect side. Jason Federico would like to see 15k or some average get credited back to water. Fred St. Ours suggested that Jason Federico review the percentage that accounting uses to calculate our charge for the various services. Jason Federico also suggested that the line items are consolidated to have fewer buckets however both Fred St. Ours and Steve Ivas noted the Advisory Board in the past preferred to have specific line items so they can readily see categories of spending. Fred St. Ours also noted it is easier for the Advisory Board to review budgets on "apples to apples" and therefore removing lines would make that process more cumbersome.

6. **Project Updates:** Jason Federico will meet with engineers to see if filters can actually be placed in the building. The Board discussed the gravel roof briefly. Next week a leak in the Town center will be repaired to include the main to the curb stop with the owner replacing curb stop to foundation. The large meter at The Glen is also being replaced next week.
7. **Pumping Data:** Jason Federico pumping numbers are ok so far. Well #10 is not turned on, it was flushed. Currently pumping is coming from Well #2 & #5 and Well #10 is set so that it turns on based on elevation from other tanks.
8. **Tier Restrictions:** Water restriction tier guidelines need to be change to odd/even schedule, and the time frames also need to be changed 5-9pm.
9. **Backflow Prevention Failures:** Both the Middle School and the High School have failed backflow devices which have not been repaired. The devices have been failed for six months, the High School has a relief valve that failed to open and the Middle School check valve 1 leaked. Jason Federico was previously informed that these devices were being fixed during April vacation and has followed up with the Foreman to ensure they will be repaired. Hoadley did not have parts causing the delay but if not resolved a letter may be required since they have not been in compliance.
10. **Cross Connection Follow Up:** The resident at 303 River Street had his home inspected since both Town water and Well water exist; the office will send a letter that the resident is in compliance and no back flow connection was noted at inspection.
11. **BOS Meeting:** The Water Commissioners are planning to meet with Select Board on June 22nd @ 7pm. Realistically the PFAS filters will be done in the fall. Fred St. Ours asked if another notice will be required for PFAS? Jason Federico also will install a sign for the fill station on Grove Street with stone around the spout.
12. **Town Hall Bubbler:** Ted Nichols does not want to remove the bubbler at Town Hall unless we have something to replace it with due to the age of the piping. Ted Nichols had inquired about a Water Department used vehicle but is no longer interested in the used vehicle due to financial constraints.

13. **Superintendent Contract:** The Board was not prepared to discuss Jason Federico's contract without seeing a draft copy. Jason Federico explained the contract included a Fiscal Year increase in salary with 2% increases annually and (3 or 4) weeks' vacation. The Board requested that Barbara Childs forward the details so they could all review at the next meeting, therefore this item is held over tonight.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 PM, seconded by Steve Ivas.

Accepted: F. St. Ours Date: 7/14/22

