

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 22, 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:** minutes from June 2nd are in draft form and can be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. **Water Main Break:** The Board discussed a recent water main break on Doris Avenue that occurred yesterday. Jason Federico estimated a thousand gallons a minute of water was lost.
3. **Superintendent Contract:** No executive session was held tonight; it will be postponed until the details of the contract for the Water Superintendent are finalized. Jason Federico would like to make the contract effective May 2nd when the former Superintendent John McInnis passed away. The new Superintendent's salary will be \$119k with (4) weeks' vacation with (1) week vacation buy back option, in addition to (1) week carry over option. Jason Federico also noted the insurance opt-out stipend language will mirror what is available in other contracts. The Superintendent is also provided with a Town vehicle. Peter Dillon motioned to approve the items listed above; Steve Ivas seconded, and all in favor at 5:45pm.
4. **Water Restrictions:** The Board discussed water restrictions; Jason Federico advised Well #10 is online but with a low flow rate to prevent a color issue. The setting is 80 gallons per minute for Well #10 to avoid an impact to water quality. Jason Federico informed the Board that financially we are on the edge of breaking even, we did collect \$60k recently from connection fees, but it has not hit our financials quite yet. Jason Federico explained we will have a small amount of surplus or a small deficit. Fred St. Ours is not concerned; Jason Federico has used article money to manage some of the expenditures with service repairs. A rate increase should be discussed however Peter Dillon wants to see how it all goes over the next month.
5. **Leak Detection:** Jason Federico noted only 3 leaks were found with the contractor that was hired for leak detection and after the survey was done additional leaks were found. Jason Federico plans to use someone different for leak detection the following year.
6. **Backflow update:** two failed devices exist, Jason Federico reports that when schools are closed for the summer the school will be making the necessary repairs.

7. **July Inserts:** The Board discussed the July insert for water bills – Fred St. Ours requested that we expand upon water conservation and include an introduction for the new water Superintendent.
8. **Drought advisory:** Jason Federico stated it is a Level 2 which means watering should be limited to handheld hoses only. Jason Federico recommends moving to Tier 2. Some revisions were made to the current restriction guidelines, once revised Donna Snow will post to NWD Facebook page. The language was revised as a working session with all members, edits were made as suggested by Board members. The Board discussed the flow at the Indian Head River, Steve Ivas motioned to move into Tier 2; Fred St. Ours seconded; and all in favor at 6pm.
9. **Board Reorganization:** Peter Dillon nominated Steve Ivas for Chairman, Fred St. Ours seconded, all in favor. Fred St. Ours nominated Peter Dillon for Vice Chairman; Steve Ivas seconded, all in favor. Peter Dillon nominated Fred St. Ours as Clerk, Steve Ivas seconded; all in favor at 6:13pm.
10. **Departmental Structure:** Jason Federico shared his proposed changes for the department, which would add another employee with skills specific to water treatment. Right now, when we have a treatment issue, we have only one employee who can effectively respond.
11. **Water Quality:** Peter Dillon discussed a situation where a SCADA system alarm was not addressed and resulted in damage to a color process that the resident had recently completed at her hair salon. The Board discussed possible solutions to resolve this situation. In the past stained laundry would occasionally be reimbursed, likewise it is Peter Dillon's feeling that we make amends with this situation. Jason Federico advised the mechanic on call did not respond to the alarm which allowed iron to leak through and resulted in a water quality issue. This situation required Well #6 being shut off to mitigate the issue. Fred St. Ours believes the mechanics can be trained to properly handle these situations, Jason Federico feels as though they have had ample time to learn the basics and respond to these situations appropriately. The Board reached a consensus to pay an invoice for the salon service to be reimbursed with a monetary cap not to exceed \$100.
12. **Spring Flushing:** Jason Federico informed the Board of his plans to have fall and spring main flushing which will be conducted during the evening on off-hours.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM, seconded by Steve Ivas.

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