

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 19, 2022

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.
345 Main Street, Norwell

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

Prepared by: Donna Snow

- 1.** Meeting Minutes: Steve Ivas will prepare notes for 5/5/22, the office Administrative Assistant was out with COVID during that week.
- 2.** FG Sullivan update: Jason Federico explained work was performed at Well #11 and the results should be back in a week. Peter Dillon questioned the purchase of a new chain saw. Jason Federico explained when FG Sullivan was working on Well #11 a tree fell, and a chain saw was not on hand at the plant making it necessary to purchase a new chain saw. Moving forward Jason Federico has tasked Steve Gatanti with tracking inventory weekly to ensure equipment is readily available when needed.
- 3.** Fill Station update: Jason Federico plans to install a sign for the fill station on Grove Street. A large delivery of material was left at fill station site, but Jason Federico reached out to Highway to have the pile removed.
- 4.** Level one drought: Jason Federico advised right now they are pumping 1.2mg (million gallons) and this weekend is predicted to be hot. Peter Dillon suggested getting through the weekend with no change to tier restrictions. Jason Federico has made changes to mitigate Well #10 from coming on and intends to utilize this only as a last resort.
- 5.** Laurelwood Drive connection fees: Jason Federico reviewed figures with the Board which included a deed restriction. The contractor must pay the connection fees for all five homes and the deed restriction prevents automated outdoor water use. The Board came to a consensus for the fee structure that Jason Federico presented.
- 6.** Current Rates and Fees: Jason Federico advised the Board may need to consider raising the fees for water connections in order to keep rates down. Fred St. Ours recommended adding a clause to grandfather existing residents.
- 7.** Town meeting follow up: Jason Federico advised two filters can fit in the existing building. Jason Federico explained the assumption is that the filters can handle 500 gals a minute through each filter with zero PFAS. Fred St. Ours asked can we have the other two filters outside and Jason Federico confirmed that is the plan. Jason Federico reached out to a structural contractor to determine how to fit the vessels noting a lot of piping work inside must happen. Jason Federico explained the cost at the moment is for a design with two vessels inside and a new roof. The operating cost would be minimum 100k a year for the filters. Putting the vessels inside allows year-round use, with two outside vessels it will allow more capacity in the summer for seasonal use. Jason Federico further explained the PFAS that is removed is shipped out and burned, it is not dumped back into the environment anywhere. Two turbidity meters are also needed to accommodate the GAC process. Shipping time for the

taller filters is two weeks. Peter Dillon asked if Jason Federico could send a website link to the Board members.

8. Facilities updates: Jason Federico had to order new valves for the South Street Treatment plant. When the valves are replaced, he will be able to determine if they were clogged or what the issue was. Jason Federico explained that Borden and Remington cancelled the KOH order this week and the plant does not have enough KOH to get through the weekend. Jason Federico has also reached out to Univar, but we no longer have an active account. Jason Federico informed the Board he will reactivate Univar so if this happens again, we have options. Peter Dillon suggested splitting the future orders on a regular basis, so we do not rely on just one vendor.
9. Microplastics: Steve Ivas asked when there is a test for it, we should go for it, however Jason Federico recommends not testing yet while we are contending with PFAS.
10. Water bubbler upstairs: Jason Federico will have Scott O'Keefe remove it with a sign advising that a new water bubbler is coming soon.
11. Abatement Request: The resident at 285 Prospect Street made a request for an abatement on his current bill which occurred from a faulty toilet. A typical bill for this resident is \$39.25 a consensus was reached for the office to make the adjustment.

Items Not Anticipated:

Fred St. Ours briefly discussed plans for Jack McInnis service in June. Fred St. Ours would like to cover the expense of the police detail. Donna Snow will reach out to police station to request that the invoice is sent to the office. Jack McInnis served 43 years with the Town and was appointed Water Superintendent on 7-27-92. Jason Federico informed the Board that Ti-Sales kindly offered to create a memorial bench at the Treatment Plant in memory of Jack McInnis. Fred St. Ours advised the Department staff will have the day off to attend Jack's services on 6/17/22; both Peter Dillon and Steve Ivas agreed.

Out of grade pay discussion: Jason Federico asked the Board to comment on "out of grade pay" for duties that the Administrative Assistant performed during the extended absence of the Water Superintendent. The additional duties performed were outlined and shared with the Board. Steve Ivas motioned for a rate of \$25/day and Peter Dillon seconded, all in favor at 5:46pm.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM, seconded by Peter Dillon.

Accepted:  Date: 6/2/22