

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 14, 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 the meeting minutes from 6/2/22 & 6/22/22, Fred St. Ours seconded; all in favor at 4:40pm.
2. **Middle School Athletic Field:** The water consumption for the July reading equated to one million gallons, the highest usage account in Town. Jason Federico spoke with Glen Ferguson and did verify usage was the result of irrigation. The fields are watered for the Town's Park and Recreation programs. Twenty thousand gallons a day was used, Jason Federico noted this is lost revenue because the Town accounts are abated and not billed.
3. **Connection Fees:** The Board reviewed Jason Federico's proposed new connection fee structure. All lots with a building on it will be grandfathered in with a discount. Commercial connection fees may need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Fred St. Ours prefers to generate revenue by selling water. Scituate's connection fees are high because they do not have the water. Jason Federico feels new residents should pay to offset the rates for existing customers. Stetson Shrine has a new 55 and over community coming in with 15 new homes. Fred St. Ours would like to sit on it for a few weeks, Peter Dillon agreed they can revisit later.
4. **SRF Discussion:** Norwell has been awarded SRF funding for South Street GAC project. Jason Federico explained with 0% interest for 20 years the result is a significant savings of \$70,000.
5. **Stetson Site Plan:** This development is at the end of the water line, Jason Federico is concerned about flow and capacity, he will request that the service loops back out. Peter Dillon noted the 55+ communities are afforded more houses on the lot. Jason Federico plans to draft a memo and share before it is submitted.
6. **Engineering Scope of Work:** H2Olson provided a quote of \$64,000 for the treatment portion, this is reasonable and includes finalizing the permitting with the state. Work done under professional services does not need to go out to bid. Architectural portion: Phase 1 includes structural changes to fit GAC, as well as the roof and solar. Phase 2 – actual roof replacement; total for both phases is estimated at \$20,000.00. Jason Federico can help with front end roof replacement specifications. All Board members are satisfied so Jason Federico will move forward.

7. **Project Updates:** Jason Federico added gravel to the roof at South Street because the water was not flowing. Jason Federico also observed water puddling in the garage from a leak at the heater. Jason Federico prefers to do a regular membrane roof not a gravel roof.
8. **Water Levels:** Demand is hard to predict because some wells were shut off this past week, Jason Federico could not provide pumping data today because of the way the system was managed recently. If the problem persists with keeping Phillips Drive tank full Jason Federico will initiate the staff to monitor who is violating tier restrictions. Hanover does not allow automated irrigation on Town water even for those who had already tied in. If a new water source is found, we could allow lawn watering and build revenue off it as well. Peter Dillon says the problem with this is the state's restrictions. Jason Federico is reaching out to Frank Sullivan for bedrock well drilling.
9. **Outstanding Meter Replacements:** Letters need to be sent certified; two examples were provided tonight. Both meters are working; equipment is old, and residents are not responsive. Fred St. Ours suggests sending a letter with a specific date/time for the meter to be replaced and send Scott O'Keefe out at the set date/time.
10. **Neptune Update:** The old IT company is refusing to provide the Town with a code on the network which would allow programs to be uninstalled and reinstalled. The current data technician believes this will be resolved before the next quarters reading. We have a work around, but the reading process is less cumbersome when the software is working on the desktop.
11. **Tuition Reimbursement:** Board agrees to reimburse the meter reader for a course but in the future classes cannot be taken during work hours. This bill will be encumbered for FY22.
12. **Next BOWC meeting:** Peter Dillon will be away for the August 4th meeting.

Unanticipated Items:

- The Board needs to discuss the acceptable amount of water that should be used for the Town fields. Jason Federico will meet with the Highway department tomorrow and come to an agreement.
- The Board discussed the possibility of watering at the Stetson Shrine Cemetery, Jason Federico would consider but notes the water is not billable and irrigation is not used at other cemeteries in town, he feels this is not necessary.
- Fred St. Ours asked to see the departments current list of vehicles and who each vehicle is assigned to. Fred St. Ours voted to move forward with the purchase of a pickup truck, Steve Ivas seconded and all in favor at 6:13pm
- Sam Woods called Jason Federico regarding a beaver dam at the upside of the South Street channel, they will have to tear the dam down and conservation will be involved.
- The Board would like to keep the rainfall gage on our page, but the weather station can be removed.
- Jason Federico will sell an old 2012 Chevy pickup truck for a minimum bid of 5k; the Board agreed.
- The Board discussed the Superintendent contract to allow 3 personal days; Fred St. Ours motioned to approve; Steve Ivas seconded and all in favor at 6:34pm
- The Board wants to discuss exploring St. Helens as a possible water source at the next meeting.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM, seconded by Steve Ivas.

Accepted: J. H. St. Ours Date: 8/18/22

