



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

Date: October 6, 2022

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.  
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon and Howard Tufts Water Superintendent Jason Federico

Prepared by: Donna Snow

### **Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting minutes from 9/15/22 are being held over. Fred St. Ours motioned to the approve meeting minutes from 9/1/22, Peter Dillon seconded and all in favor at 4:40pm

### **Howard Tufts Introduction:**

Both Peter Dillon and Fred St. Ours welcomed Howard Tufts our new Assistant Superintendent. Howard's experience included working with Scituate Wastewater, Scituate Water, Arlington Water & Sewer, MWRA sewer water. Jason Federico explained daily logs will be done for treatment process control. Tomorrow will be a lab training for process control samples which include both iron and manganese. Moving forward the on-call staff will have to do samples daily; including Saturday & Sunday and holidays as needed. Fred St. Ours asked if turbidity will be protocol as well, and Jason Federico responded with an affirmative.

### **Distribution:**

Jason Federico noted one utility body vehicle may need a lift gate to pick up hydrants and gate valves so that we don't need to call the Highway Department in an emergency.

### **Abatement:**

An abatement request was reviewed from 49 Loring Drive for a leaking toilet. The usage report was reviewed, and it appears that on 7/19 the situation was fixed however on 8/12 the leak appears to start again. We will not abate this bill again, the Board asked for Dan to confirm it was fixed since his interrogation report shows the problem stopped and started again. A consensus was reached to bill 15k gallons at tier 1, and charge 11k at tier 2, and the remaining 45k at the lowest tier plus the normal meter charge.

### **Water Insert:**

The Board reviewed the draft insert for the new rate increase that Jason Federico prepared. Four edits were made to the draft and Donna Snow will update the final draft with changes. This insert will be included in the October quarterly billing.

### **Meter Replacements:**

The resident living at 236 Forest Street needs their meter replaced. The meter is not reading and cannot be read from inside because we cannot make contact with this resident. Jason Federico suggests a meter pit is installed and charge the resident for the installation. Fred St.

Ours suggested increasing the bill with large estimate however the difficulty would be the usage normally seems low and it appears only one person resides at this location. Fred St. Ours prefers estimating the bill and not adding a meter pit. Peter Dillon said 5k gallons a quarter sounds about right after reviewing the history. The COA should be contacted from a safety standpoint, Fred St. Ours may have a contact he can reach out to. Jason Federico advised Dan Gage is replacing old meters, some days he replaces up to 6/7 meters a day and Jason Federico plans to meet with Ti-Sales to establish the protocols for the most efficient way to identify meters needing updates for the meter replacement program.

### **Other Items Not Anticipated:**

1. Sampling violation: Marc Spinella samples 3x a month and sends samples off to Analytical Balance. Analytical sent them to another lab that was not certified. We are now in non-compliance for not sampling 2 times for the month. The worst-case scenario is a note will need to be added to the CCR mailer. It is Jason Federico's understanding that the person who was supposed to read the results for the day was not in, so the samples were sent to a different lab (not certified). Jason Federico has reached out to Pace who does pfas samples (they pick up samples), Netlabs has also been contacted. Jason Federico's goal is to switch labs to prevent similar situations in future. Jason Federico wants to find the chain of custody with Analytical on the samples that were processed by the other lab. For another town, an uncertified result led to a boil water order. Some towns experienced repeat samples being sent out to this uncertified lab, thankfully Norwell's situation was not as dire. Peter Dillon can't say enough about Netlabs, they use sealed cardboard boxes.
2. The Town hall lawn is not recovering from the lack of water as it has in years past. The septic system is out front at town hall. Fred St. Ours would like to add some sample beds on the lawn and Peter Dillon suggested raised 10x12 sections with railroad ties with different samples of grass such to include grass that does not need water and other low maintenance options. Jason Federico will follow up with Highway, this could be a good opportunity to demonstrate other solutions not requiring heavy watering. Jason Federico could also reach out to North and South River Watershed for additional suggestions.
3. Jason Federico has some links to pfas articles to keep residents informed that he may share on our social media sites.
4. Howard Tufts suggested knowing Water levels when pfas samples were<sup>taken</sup>, would be nice to know if pfas is higher when water levels are high or low.
5. Conservation reached out regarding the Bowker Street land to have it mowed from conservation, Jason Federico does not have the manpower to do it.
6. New position mechanic has been advertised internally. Jason wants more treatment background not distribution, 2 in distribution and 2 in treatment would be a good balance.

Fred St. Ours made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 PM, seconded by Peter Dillon.

Accepted:  Date: 20 Oct 2022