

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting August 3, 2022

Agenda items may be taken out of order.

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Jay Spahl, Robert Sullivan, William Conley, Thomas Fournier and George Patrinos

In attendance: Narinder Kumar

Scott opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Accept the minutes of the July 6, 2022, public meeting: *Jay made a motion to accept the minutes from July 6, 2022, Bob seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, 3 in favor, 2 in abstention (Tom and Bill were not at meeting), passed unanimously.*

Accept the minutes of the July 20, 2022, public meeting: *Bill made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2022, meeting, Tom seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, 4 in favor, 1 in abstention (Jay was not at meeting), passed unanimously.*

Reorganization:

Chairman: *Tom made a motion for Scott to continue as Chairman, Bill seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor passed unanimously.*

Vice Chairman: *Bill made a motion for Bob to be Vice Chair, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

Clerk: *Bob made a motion for Bill to continue as clerk, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

86 West Main Street – Bill dispute – Narinder Kumar: Narinder Kumar came in front of the board looking for some relief for a very large water sewer bill. The bill was received in May, and it was for the FY2022 Cycle 4 billing. The property located at 86 West Main Street was vacant and sometime during the time it was unoccupied there was a water leak somewhere causing water damage. The owner discovered water damage in the basement and the basement ceiling and 1st floor floor. The owner does not know where the leak is or what caused it. When reviewing the billing the large bill was discovered and a technician tagged the house and noticed it looked vacant and turned the water off at the street so no additional damage would occur. Scott explained that unfortunately the water has gone through the meter, so you are responsible for the charges. Jay then stated that it appears that the water did not go into the sewer so we can abate the sewer amount.

Bill made a motion to abate the sewer amount of \$1856.74, Tom seconded the motion, a discussion occurred as to the exact amount that needed to be abated, including interest. Bill amended his motion to abate the sewer amount of \$1999.04, Tom seconded the amended motion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

The owner then asked again if there was anything to be done for large water bill? Scott explained that it is a long-standing policy to not waive or abate the water bill and we cannot waive the water bill. Scott also stated he should speak with the Treasurer/Collector's Office regarding setting up a payment plan.

27 Lawrence Rd – Mark Gaudette – permission to tie into sewer: No one was present for 27 Lawrence Rd – no action taken.

35 Chase Ave – Still awaiting response from Webster regarding nutrients and Bob still has concerns about the amount of water causing a sewer pre-treatment plan.

Dresser Hill WST Project: This item has since been addressed by the Superintendent and no need for discussion.

Nichols College/Center Rd addition of Water and/or Sewer: Scott received an email from a Planning Board member regarding Nichols College and the new townhouses being constructed and question as to if neighboring properties could tie into water and sewer. A discussion occurred how Nichols is only extending their private lines on private property. Bob states what is more concerning is as to why a Planning Board member is asking who can tie into water and sewer. Scott stated that he replied that if any resident wanted to know if they could tie into water and/or sewer they could call the office and appear in front of the Water Sewer Commission.

Webster True-up: all information was given to Webster and now we are waiting to hear back from Webster.

Indirect Costs: The commissioners agree that a meeting needs to be set up with the Treasurer Collector to go over information.

Middle School Tank: George stated that the water storage tank at Dudley Middle School is for domestic use and fire protection. He needs to set up a meeting with Marc Andre, from Dudley Middle School to go over the record of the tank and its service and maintenance. Tank provides supplemental water for fire and domestic and is going through the tank. A discussion occurred as to what needs to occur, and that George will have more information to follow.

Superintendent Report:

Bates Tank – there have numerous issues. George had a meeting with the Engineers and DN Tanks as to how to proceed and how to correct the issues. They are looking to bore a hole in the front side of the tank and create an area with a swale and rocks with a pipe coming up for overflow, seal everything else off (all the overflows and chasm that is located under the tank) and they believe that DEP will be happy with this fix as well. We are on a time schedule with this and need to proceed. George stated that in the future he would like to look at different types of water storage tanks and to be placed in a better location.

Dresser Hill Tank – Will be starting in the September to October time frame. Still have no idea what type of pressure problems will occur.

Stonkus checked the PRV valves on Dresser Hill and will order what he needs to repair.

Bacteria are good and sampling completed.

New trailer for the lawn mower was order for \$2600.00 and the old lawnmower trailer will have the trench box mounted on it for use.

In the process of getting quotes for a new dump truck.

Working on drafts for policies on subdivision, multifamily and meter pits.

Vadar system is up and running and Jen is learning the system.

Bridge repair at Station 6 done last week.

Level 3 drought conditions set by state, notifications went out to all, and staff is out watching to educate people of this concern.

New well possibilities being researched

Sewer and Water furnaces will both need to be replaced this year.

Sewer Pump at Brentwood pumpstation went, operation with only 1 pump, that type of pump in a special pump, has been ordered.

Quotes for rails for Eisenhower pump station, sent out 3 requests received 2 back, \$5000.00, and \$3000.00, going with the \$3000.00 quote.

Sewer Asset Management Program work has begun.

FYI the MWWA Wachusett Annual Clambake will be held on August 25th, the staff will be attending and if any Commissioner is interested, please let us know.

Public/Board Comments:

Scott asked if we want to have another meeting this month or just proceed with meeting Sept 7, 2022? Consensus was to not have another meeting just the regular meeting in September.

Bob brought up a question regarding a change order for Barbato Construction that we approved but there were additional items added on to it that were not discussed. Scott stated he would speak with Jeff regarding that.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Bob seconded the motion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

****Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted by the Board: ****

Posted agenda for August 3, 2022, meeting at 6:30pm Room 315

Minutes from July 6 and July 20, 2022

Copy of bill and history for 86 West Main Street

Copy of email from Planning Board member to Scott

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant