

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting September 1, 2021

Present: Scott Zajkowski, Robert Sullivan, Jay Spahl, Tom Fournier, William Conley, George Patrinos, and Jennifer Cournoyer

Also in Attendance: Jonathan Androlewicz, Sheri Houle, Tony Pondolfin, and Mike Spahl.

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

Accept the minutes of the August 4, 2021, public meeting: *Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

Accept the minutes of the August 4, 2021, Executive Session: *Bob made a motion to accept and release the minutes as amended, changing the word filed with EPA to certified with EPA, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.*

40 Hall Road – Permission to connect to Water and Sewer: Jonathan Androlewicz from Hall Rd LLC states they will have a 2000 sq ft retail facility, 40'x50' with three (3) bathrooms and a kitchenette. There will be about 5-6 employees and fire protection is not needed due to the size of the building. Bob asked what the construction start time was? Jonathan stated they were hoping to start in November. Jay stated no issue with access to water and sewer in that area.

Jay made a motion granting 40 Hall Road permission to tie into water and sewer being sure to following the Water Sewer Departments policies and regulations, Bob seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Sheri Houle- 1 View Street – Bill Dispute: Sheri Houle and her tenant Tony Pondolfin were present. Sheri stated she was here looking to see if anything could be done regarding her last bill which was extremely high. She explained what lead to the high bill. The tenant Tony notified them that there was an issue with their toilet around 4/30-5/1/2021, Sheri had the toilet repaired right away. She then asked when this problem started and the tenant told her back in January, they noticed it, but they were trying to handle it on their own. She is looking for some of resolution due to the high-water bill. Scott explained there is a policy long standing that if it goes through the meter. A discussion occurred; Jay stated that it was a hard situation but again the policy is if it goes through the meter you are responsible for it. Scott states that doing for her would set a precedence. Sheri feels she is in a unique situation as her tenants are legally deaf and would not hear the toilet running. Scott then explained how there was a large business in town with a large water bill and they came to dispute and unfortunately, they were responsible for it. Scott explained there is nothing that the board can do. They advised her to contact the Treasurer/Collector office to discuss with them about setting up a payment plan.

Bates Tank leak explanation: George stated that information was in his Superintendent's Report, but basically there are some hairline areas at the top of tank, but there have been no issues in the past two (2) months. He believes the problem was with the telemetering a few months back. No additional problems and the tank will be repaired in a year. George also stated that this is being monitored all the time.

Accounts Payable response from Treasurer: Received information from the Treasurer/Collector in response to the letter that was sent to him last month requesting information on Accounts Payable. Scott stated once he received this information, he did discuss with the Treasurer Collector Richard Carmignani. Rich states that he is not going to give us individual information of the accounts. Bob stated he is not concerned about the percentage; he is concerned about the dollar amounts. He states that the budget needs to balance out with DOR (Department of Revenue) and if we have outstanding monies but must raise rates to make up for it, then other users are picking up more because of the ones who aren't paying. Bob states he values the shutting of water for unpaid bills. A discussion occurred, Jay stated we need to find a common ground, Bob replied we need to have a shut off policy for non-payment. George suggested that work on finding the rules regarding shutting off for non-payment and to invite the Treasurer Collector to the next meeting. The board agreed and would like to ask if the Treasurer Collector could attend the October meeting.

Policy Review for Backflow and Cross Connection and Permit Connection: This will be continued to the next meeting.

Multiple Grant opportunities/Safety Equipment: Bob had sent an email to the Commissioners regarding two different grant opportunities. The first was a \$10,000.00 grant through MIAA, the town's insurance company. Each year they aware up to \$10,000.00 to every town. In the past, Bob has gotten a trench box and a traffic trailer. Scott stated he had asked George what he needed for safety equipment. George states that he needs a trench box. Jay asked what about the guys going into the Sewer pumps? Bob stated that you could spec out a trench box and confined space. The second was a grant through AWWA 36 opportunity to help identify where we are losing water. A discussion occurred about the Water Management Act and reasons to proceed with this grant. It was decided to go forwarded with both grants.

Moratorium and Water Ban: No need to consider at this time, due to the increase in the rain lately, but will keep on monthly meeting agenda.

Administrative Assistant's Pay Review: The Board reviewed the information that was voted on at the Selectman's Meeting for Administrative Assistant's pay increase.

Superintendent's Report: George presented his report to the Commissioners.

1. Mason Road problems with heavy rains and washing out road. He moved the paving schedule up. They are 75% through the project, there are six (6) services left to connect and some laterals. Tomorrow morning, he will do a damage control drive down Mason Rd. The vault for Sawmill Rd PVR will be installed in Spring.
2. Issues with Dankris and not being here for a couple weeks and then returning, schedule is erratic. Bob asked if Tighe and Bond has a schedule for them?
3. Received a call from the School System regarding the PFAS in the water. George states that he spoke with Rich Mathieu and Greg Duval and that the water meets the state standards the blending operation is working. Dudley water is safe and meets the standards.

Public Comments: Mike Spahl has some concerns with the Mason Rd Project. He reviewed a copy of the contract with Haluch Construction and has some questions regarding sections of the contract. He has found a dozen or more violations by the General Contractor. The quality of Mason Road has been horrible for the last three (3) months.

1. Part 2.1 The owner will not furnish any materials or services, Mike states that he has seen Town of Dudley vehicles, equipment and staff working there. George responded yes that in an emergency they do help.
2. Part 3 Use of Premise, they must obtain written agreement for use of property. Mike stated they have been using my field without a written agreement. George stated that Haluch asked for permission and Mike asked for Haluch to provide an insurance binder for property and that was provided. George stated it seemed like everything was all set. It really is up to Tighe and Bond to address the concerns. Jay asked are we paying for a representative from Tighe and Bond? George replied yes to be on site every day. Mike stated the written agreement was never done. On one Thursday there was a small amount of pipe in his field and by Friday it was covered. Mike was concerned about the liability as he does allow Shepherd Hill students to use his field. Mike did receive an insurance binder.
3. Part A Water Service Shut Down, notify at least one (1) week in advance – not done
4. Traffic Control 1.4 adhere to all Town of Dudley policies, arrange construction activities, roads were closed that is not allowed. Scott stated that was under the direction of the Police Department to close the roads.
5. Part H- Deliver handwritten notices 24 hours in advance – never done
6. Dust control, control dust daily, use a mechanical sweeper to prevent dust from becoming a hazard, all never happened.
7. Cleaning, clean sediment trapping devices during work, never done.
8. They broke a piece of granite curb at the Fire Station, needs to be replaced per contract.
9. Water all treated water shall be flushed and disposed of not done properly.
10. Storage of Materials, pipe ends shall be sealed tight, never happened.
11. 1.55 Diameter of pipe, diameter shall match the minimum, did not happen. Mike states he has a 1" main and they connected a ¾" main. Also, Mike states he received a call from his wife that the water was shut off at 8:10am without notice, he came home, and his front yard was all dug up, they didn't turn water back on until 3:30pm. When he came back home, he had no water, Haluch was already gone so he called George. George came to check the curb stop, that was on but no water in the house. Haluch came back and they ran hoses for Mike to have water until the next day when they could investigate. The next day they kept flushing the water main back and forth and finally flushed it out. The water main was blocked and that was because the company is incompetent, they never capped the line.
12. Minimum width of pavement will be six (6) feet, that was done.
13. 3D required to install pavement on at the end of each week, that was not done.

Mike asked who is watching over this project to make sure that all of this is being done?

Scott replied I have no answer as to why this happened, and it should be Tighe and Bond. Bob stated that we need to bring this to Tighe and Bond. Jay stated that the rep from Tighe and Bond should be watching over this. A discussion occurred about the issues and that Tighe and Bond will be notified.

Board Comments:

Scott: Asset Management Plan: The Asset Management Plan was emailed to us on 8/30/31 (10pm) from Tighe and Bond for review. A discussion occurred about the plan and the necessity of the plan.

Bill made a motion to move forward with the Asset Management Plan, Bob seconded, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Bob: GIS is important we should be looking into software and going forward with it.

Scott: There is misinformation out there and many questions as to why we cannot send out a notice that the PFAS levels are good. A discussion occurred, it was decided that the monthly results of PFAS since the blending started would be posted on the Town of Dudley Water Sewer page and notification will be put on the front sign directing people to the website for information. Scott also asked people to not get their information from Facebook, please call the office and get your information from the source.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a vote was taken, all in favor, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant