



OFFICE OF THE
WATER DEPARTMENT
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
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Water Department Minutes **May 22, 2012**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman, Karl Huber
Member present: Bob Gamache
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall – lower level

Results of May 21st Election

Karl told Bob that the Water Department did not have anyone that came forward to run as a candidate for the position of “Water Commissioner”. Elections were held the day before with resident Brian West receiving 4 write-in votes. Mr. West was contacted by the Town Clerk and we are waiting to see if he accepts the position.

Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2012

Bob made a motion to approve, as submitted, the minutes from the April 24th meeting. Karl 2nd the motion. - Motion passed unanimously.

Bills

\$625.24 of monthly bills were reviewed and signed off by the Board

Payroll

The Secretary's and Water Employee's payroll slips were signed off.

Breakdown of Finances for FY2012

Members reviewed the fiscal year 2012 financial report.

Update on Money Owed to the Water Department

Water bills are due on May 23rd. Late notices with interest will go out after the 23rd.

Generator Battery Quote

The total of the FM Generator battery quote is \$371.37. The breakdown is as follows: Battery \$153, terminal protector AC pad \$4, EPA charges \$5, wire set \$41.37, labor \$168 (2 hours). After reviewing the quote, Bob made a motion to approve the replacement/repair. Karl 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Pump Station Failure of May 15th

On May 15th, the pump station experienced an electrical failure from a tree limb that fell on a power line on Main Street. The generator did not power on, therefore, the office received a 3 power alarm failure. At the same time, we also received a high PH



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alarm. David went out to the pump station and noticed that the generator was not on. Emergency calls were placed to Bill Anderson (Walco) and FM Generator. Both responded immediately. The Police Department, Fire Department, General Store, Swallow Union Elementary School and the Water Commissioners were all contacted. When the interruption of power occurred, the few second delay that it took for the generator to turn on caused an issue with the PH regulator (did not reset). This caused a high PH reading; the system shut down and had to be turned on manually. Temporary repairs were made, however, Bill Anderson has ordered an isolator and UPS backup to make permanent repairs.

Karl mentioned that he and David Tully were planning on getting together on Thursday to work on consolidating the Operator Manual. A date in the near future will be chosen for all Water Commissioners to meet at the pump station to go over procedures in the event that David is not in town.

Karl brought up that the Water Department and Fire Department will be exercising the hydrants in July to check hydrant pressure.

73 Highland Street – Diane Nilsen – Unusually high water bill

The Secretary explained that Ms. Nilsen at 73 Highland Street called regarding her very high water bill. Her usage since 2006 for the spring has been 19,000-31,000 gallons. This April, the meter read 208,900 gallons. David replaced the meter with a new one in May. He has gone back to the residence and the new meter is reading correctly. The meter seemed to start having problems soon after it was installed about a year ago. There is a question as to if it was installed incorrectly. After the discussion, Bob made a motion to adjust the water bill for 73 Highland Street by removing \$1,161.60 from the spring 2012 bill. Karl 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The number was determined by averaging out the invoices from 2006 (leaving out the lowest and highest readings).

Special Permit Notice – Planning Board – Sprint – June 4th Hearing

The Secretary told the Commissioners that the Water Department had received a Special Permit hearing notice for Sprint to replace/add equipment onto the existing cellular tower on Pleasant Street. The Board had “no comment”; however, Karl would like to attend the meeting to inquire about installing a tower at the well site.

Tanker Companies

Karl explained that George W. O'Brien and Lawrence Tank were still interested in filling their tankers with water purchased from the Dunstable Water Department. The Secretary brought up that the logistics of entering into such an agreement could be



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difficult at this time due to the fact that the tankers would not have a safe place to pull over and fill up, the bridge near Sweet's Pond is under a weight limit due to its deterioration and the McGovern wall project will be beginning this summer. After the discussion, the Board decided to table this subject for now.

589 Main Street – McCormick Repair

Mr. McCormick had called the office to have the Water Department mark his water lines as he is having a fence installed on his property. When out at the residence, Karl and David could not locate the curb box. The resident had trees removed and the property graded. During that process, the curb box was buried and the cap was missing. The Secretary called the homeowner to make him aware that the curb box would need to be repaired immediately, at his expense. David travelled to Bay State Water Works in Littleton to pick up the parts and worked on the repair for 3 hours. Once finished, Mr. McCormick's water hose was flushed. Karl went out later to see Mr. McCormick and explain what had transpired. He will be billed for parts and labor.

Update on Possible Interconnection with Tynngsborough Water District

Karl told Bob that Jeff Faulkner from Stantec had been recently laid off. Karl would like to move along and get pricing to replace/install 4" pipe from Pond Street to the Post Office as well as 6" pipe from Lowell Street to 493 Main Street. This totals approximately 8,000 linear feet. There was discussion about going out to bid; but the lack of a specific project/funding deterred the Board from pursuing the bid process at this time.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

none

Meeting was closed at 8:10pm. The next meeting of the Water Department is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at the Dunstable Town Hall, lower level at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Water Department