



OFFICE OF THE
WATER DEPARTMENT
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893
waterdept@dunstable-ma.gov

Approved: October 22, 2013

Water Department Minutes **Tuesday, September 24, 2013**

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

Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2013

Bryan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted, from the August 27th meeting. Bob 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Sign Monthly Bills

\$1,905.87 of monthly bills were reviewed and signed by the Board.

Review and Sign Employee's Payroll

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

Breakdown of Finances for FY2014

Members reviewed the fiscal year 2014 financial report.

Update on Money Owed to the Water Department

\$200.30 is currently owed. Late notices with interest are mailed monthly.

Simmon's Property – 726 Main Street - Pipe

Karl told members that he and David had gone out to the Simmon's residence. He asked David to take the measurement of the pipe location for our "tie-in" book. Then, pull back the earth, cut the pipe below grade, cap it, and replace the dirt.

List of Projects for David Tully

The Board discussed that there are projects that need to be completed before winter. They asked the Secretary to send David the list of tasks. They are:

- 1) Flushing of system – September/October
- 2) Reading meters - October
- 4) Spray caps of hydrants specific colors to indicate useable or non useable hydrants (so towns coming to fight fires will not open a hydrant they shouldn't)
- 5) Schedule Ray Ferland – McCrometer Insertion Magmeter cleaning
- 6) Pipe at 726 Main Street – Simmons – take measurements of location so we can



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keep in "tie-in" book. Pull back earth to below grade, cut and cap pipe and replace the soil.

- 7) 711 Main Street hydrant needs to be repaired
- 8) Hydrant outside of Town Hall is in collapse zone – should be relocated

Colored Notices for Water Shut Off

Some surrounding towns use brightly colored notices stapled to homes to notify residents that the Water Department has scheduled a shut off of water service to the home. The Board asked the Secretary to ask Attorney Larkin if this type of notice is an adequate way to notify our customers in place of using a hand delivered notice by the Constable.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Fire Chief Brian Rich

Chief Rich came to the meeting for an update on the Water Department projects mentioned at the Community Project Committee meeting of September 5th. Karl explained that he spoke to Engineer Tom Mahana (Tighe and Bond) who is going to send us a quote for the cost of a feasibility study for a water storage tank. The cost of the study will be approved as a warrant article at the Special Town Meeting this fall. Karl said that he hopes we don't go through this process again only to face the same hurdles, barriers and lack of support that we have run into before. Funding is the main issue and the Department needs the town's financial support. One way to achieve this would be to dissolve the Enterprise Fund so that the cost of any project would be bared by the entire town. Karl said that we can not expect the rate payers to cover the cost of the storage tank when it will benefit all residents. Town water is supplied to the Swallow Union Elementary School, Library, Town Hall, Police Department, Fire Department, local businesses and may bring our ISO rating down. The study will also include pricing out the replacement of the hydro-pneumatic tanks with a new 10,000-15,000 facility at the pump station, replacing mains and upgrading the wells.

It was brought up that some people feel the Water Department should disband, leaving the 100 customers to drill their own individual wells. Chief Rich said that because of septic setback requirements that may be impossible for some residents. It is also our understanding that municipal buildings would need operators for their systems costing the taxpayers. Chief Rich explained that according to the State Fire Marshall the town can not have less of a system than we presently have with regard to fire hydrants and sprinklers in town buildings.



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The Board expressed their frustration that our income does not cover the cost of repairs and upgrades to the water system. One way to bring in more funding is through a cellular tower. Karl will look into that. Chief Rich expressed a desire to put the Fire Department's equipment on a tower if that happens.

The Chief told Karl that during the week of October 21st, they will be conducting a fire drill using tankers, none over 2,300 gallons. This drill will be held between 7pm and 9pm. Karl asked to be kept informed.

Motion made, 2nd and passed unanimously to close the meeting at 8:10pm. The next meeting of the Water Department will be Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Water Department



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