



OFFICE OF THE
WATER DEPARTMENT
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Water Commission Minutes
Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Approved: 7/17/18

Chairman Karl Huber called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Members present: Scott Wilkins, John O'Brien

Members absent:

Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, lower level

In attendance: Fire Chief Brian Rich; James Tully, Board of Selectmen; Josh Mayer, Boy Scout

Reviewed & Signed:

- Monthly bills
- Monthly payroll

NON – Lead & Copper

Mr. Huber explained that he's been made aware of this matter through email, but has been unable to locate any details. He's talked to Wright Pierce and will also talk to White Water soon. He wants clarification as to what the requirement is. Presently there are 10 sites tested, and DEP wishes the town to test 20. So the town needs to know what that means, whether it's just testing an additional 10, or a totally new 20. Mr. Tully noted that he's spoken to White Water and may be able to provide the Commission with some information on the subject. Mr. Huber thanked Mr. Tully and noted that the town isn't out of compliance; this is just additional expectation from DEP.

Pepperell Contract

Mr. Huber gave an update on the project. White Water will cease to be the town's water operator for the Water Department at the end of the month. Starting in July the town intends to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with Pepperell for water operator services. Mr. Huber then spoke about some issues the system is facing. Mr. Tully briefly interjected to remind the Commission about some issues with a KOH valve. Mr. Huber then had some questions for Mr. Tully regarding his discussions with Pepperell. It was confirmed that Joe Jordan is the contact person. He is the Water & Sewer Department head in Pepperell. It was agreed that a copy of the drafted inter-municipal agreement would be sent to the Commission for review. Mr. Voelker suggested that the Commission discuss with Pepperell about administrative assistant services and who would handle routine inquiries from rate payers. He elaborated on how the former Water Secretaries duties have been broken down between various other town officials and asked the Commission to give some thought to how things will work going forward with Pepperell.

VFD Update

Mr. Wilkins gave an update on where the VFD is. He reported that the work was done through First Electric and should be complete. There was some discussion of the drive not going to sleep, and there were concerns about shortening the life of the pump if it is forced to run continuously. Mr. Huber recommended that before White Water departs, they should be consulted. Mr. Tully noted that someone from White Water should be present at the joint meeting scheduled between the Commission and the Board later in the evening. The Commission expressed some concern about

this and some other ongoing problems the system is facing and felt that those should definitely be addressed. Chief Rich had a few questions about which well is running. The Commission felt it likely to be the Well No. 1. Mr. Wilkins elaborated a bit more on how the system circulates water and the concern about the pump running continuously.

Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Huber noted that this update will be done in the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen later in the evening and will appear in their minutes.

Route 113 Project Update

Mr. Huber reported on where things stand with the Rt. 113 Project. Upgrading the pipe should be an integral part of the project especially since this is a MassDOT project. The only cost the town should incur is the cost of the pipe. Especially since the road will be ripped up and redone by the existing road project. There was some discussion of what kind of pipe to use. Mr. Tully expressed some thoughts on the project and made some suggestions about the kind of pipe to be used. He noted that the Roads Commission is very interested in ensuring Water's participation with the project. Mr. Huber then inquired about the next meeting to discuss the project. Mr. Tully noted Roads will likely have someone in attendance of the joint meeting.

Monthly Bills & Payroll

Mr. Voelker provided the Commission with copies of the bills and briefly went over them. These included a bill for legal services from Town Counsel, bills for engineering from Wright Pierce, a Norse bill relating to the ongoing water project, a Staples bill, National Grid bills, and the usual White Water bills. There was also a membership bill for the Mass Rural Water Association and a bill from the Groton Herald for a legal notice. Mr. Voelker also took the opportunity to ask the Commission to designate one of its members, as authorized by the Municipal Modernization Act provisions accepted by the Board of Selectmen, to sign bills for the warrant. This would merely mean that one person, usually the chair, would sign the bills and report back to the Commission at its next subsequent meeting about what bills have been paid. Since the Commission ordinarily only meets once a month it would improve the flow of bill payments. The Commission agreed that this would be a prudent measure.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Brien to designate the Water Commission Chair to have the authority to sign bills for the Commission as permitted under the Municipal Modernization Act as adopted by the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilkins and passed unanimously.

Minutes

The Commission considered its minutes from May 22nd, 2018. Seeing no necessary changes or modifications, the Commission proceeded with adopting them.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkins to adopt the minutes of May 22nd, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Huber and passed by majority vote.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Josh Mayer Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Mayer started off by explaining he has an eagle project in mind for Blancher Hill. He would like to do some clearing for parking in the area for easier access to the trail. Conservation Commission is in favor, but recommended he speak with Water Commission since the trail crosses over onto Water Commission land. Mr. Mayer then provided the Commission with a map of the trail and indicated the

areas he'd like to work on. This included notations made by Conservation Commission. Mr. Huber stated that if the clearing helps make the trail easier, he has no objections. Mr. O'Brien had some suggestions for the project and its parameters. Mr. Huber then clarified as to what is to be done. Mr. Mayer explained he will help clean up the trail, including some clearing back of brush. He also intends to put a few erosion bars in, and clear some areas for parking. The Commission was satisfied with the plan and determined to approve it thanking young Mr. Mayer for his efforts and wishing him luck.

A motion to approve and permit Josh Mayer's proposed Eagle Scout Project was made by Mr. Wilkins and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.

14 Hillcrest Street

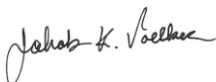
Mr. Huber turned discussion to the question of 14 Hillcrest. He was uncertain to the current status of the property. Chief Rich reported on the ongoing issues with 14 Hillcrest that he was aware of. There is a small leak between the wall of the house and the meter. A fix can't be done until a shut off is done. Ms. Hutton, to his knowledge, had told the homeowner that it was his problem under the Water Departments rules and regulations. Chief Rich told the property owner to wait until Pepperell comes on as the town's water operator. Mr. Huber noted that the rules and regulations require that the department's responsibility stops at the curb stop. Chief Rich reported further on what White Water appears to have done or not done in relation to the matter. Mr. O'Brien asked about how bad the leak was. Chief Rich responded that it isn't bad yet, but the homeowner is reasonably worried it will get worse. He further noted the homeowner has always been an excellent customer and is 96 years old. It appears that Ms. Hutton was the official that spoke with him and was firm that it was not the town's responsibility to resolve this particular issue. Mr. O'Brien had some thoughts about the topic in relation to the rules and regulations and what the homeowner can be reasonably expected to do. Mr. Huber suggested that the department may have to go out of its way a little bit to try to resolve the issue and prevent it from morphing into something worse. Mr. O'Brien then inquired about whether there are curb stops at every house. Mr. Huber responded that there are. Mr. O'Brien then asked if they are tested regularly. Mr. Huber outlined what was done in the past. Chief Rich also added to the discussion noting what has been done at the Fire Station for its water connection.

92 Pleasant Street

Mr. Huber was uncertain as to what is going on with 92 Pleasant. White Water was supposed to provide a bill to Ms. Hutton who was then going to work up a letter to send to the customer. It is unclear what has happened. The issue at 92 Pleasant Street involved a vacant house that had a frozen pipe over the winter that burst.

A motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm was made by Mr. Wilkins and seconded by Mr. Huber. The motion passed by majority vote.

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Voelker
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Water Department