



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

Water Commission Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Approved: 10/30/19

Chairman Karl Huber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
Other members present: John O'Brien
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, lower level
In attendance: Harold Simmons, Advisory Board

Reviewed & Signed:

- Monthly Bills
- Monthly Payroll

Well No. 1 Operational Update

Mr. Huber reported no change. Things are running smoothly. Work for the access road improvements that are part of the overall Water Infrastructure Project has begun.

Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Huber reported that all is going well. The water main has been installed. The testing has been done and the biggest hurdle was the test sample at the Post Office. There was a concerning result. So a second test was done by SWSS. Note the Post Office is not on the list of required testing results with DEP. All subsequent tests have demonstrated no issues and the system operating within normal parameters. Some tie ins have been done as well. Mr. Huber then spoke about the hydrants along that stretch and what will be done in relation to them for future flushing. He then spoke about the curb stops and service connections. He's asked for a list of water ratepayers so that the department can send notices. The next step then is the access road improvements, which fall under contract 3 of the project. Contract 2 was the water main work. Contract 1, the water tank part of the project, is still on hold waiting for the waiver the contractor needs. DEP has indicated it appears likely that a waiver will be granted, but that isn't known for sure. Representative Harrington has been assisting the town in pursuing the waiver for which the Commission extends its thanks.

SWSS Update

Mr. Huber reported that the biggest issue that has been the locations of tie ins. SWSS has spent a lot of time assisting in locating the tie ins. SWSS has been operating off the departments drawings, which have proven in some situations not to be as accurate as they should be. Thanks to the infrastructure project, we will have updated information that is digital and accurate. Mr. Huber noted the only hiccup is that the department may see a bill from Highway Department for some overtime for a Highway employee who had to assist SWSS. Highway was willing to help, but it is costing the Water Department 4 hours of overtime for what was likely a job that required about 10 minutes. Mr. O'Brien inquired about the necessity of having a Highway employee assist in this case. Mr. Huber noted that SWSS hadn't realized that it would cost a 4-hour block of overtime and has agreed that to

take different steps in the future. Mr. Simmons had some questions about the departments testing which Mr. Huber answered. The testing is required by DEP, but some of the testing that was done in relation to the recently placed pipe was to test it. The new pipe once installed was chlorinated, but it was still important to test it to ensure that everything is as it should be. Mr. Huber stressed that all of the test sites recognized by DEP passed as well as what was done to test the new pipe and everything has been properly documented.

Department Operations Update

Mr. Huber reported on the new house that will be built by Ken Tully on Pleasant Street. This house will get a new tie in and curb stop. He then shifted to what is being done for the Mixed Use District (MUD) for the future Affordable Housing Project. Mr. O'Brien had some questions relating to the MUD. Mr. Huber elaborated on how the access to the site will be utilized and noted that this connection will help.

Discussion of Billing for 503 Main Street Repair

Mr. Huber reported that the department was charged \$3,000 for the replacement of the curb stop and related work. But it should be determined whether any costs associated to the matter should be borne by the homeowner. That includes turning the water off until it was fixed, turning it back on, and any other fees that might be involved. Mr. O'Brien noted that the repair was the departments and asked if it is prudent for the department to charge the water ratepayer. Mr. Simmons asked if the problem was one resulting from actions of the homeowner. Mr. Huber responded that it was unclear. It could have been damaged by a lawn mower. The homeowners have previously suggested it could have happened as a result of a snowplow. However, the part damaged was sufficiently off the roadside to make that unlikely. Mr. O'Brien submitted that it is hard to determine responsibility and was hesitant to pursue fees from the homeowner. In light of those concerns, the Commission determined not to take any further action on the matter.

Next Meeting/Regular Meetings

The next regularly scheduled meeting would tentatively be set for October 23, 2019. But may be rescheduled for a later date in the month.

Authorization of Accounts Payable & Payroll

The Commission considered and signed off on several bills. These included normal monthly bills from SWSS, National Grid, Wright Pierce, and Walco. There were also bills relating to the Water Infrastructure Project, mainly relating to Police Off Duty Details. Mr. O'Brien had a few questions relating to the details. Mr. Voelker elaborated on the billing process and the report that Ms. Bresnick provided. The Commission then reviewed and approved payment of the bills and also signed department payroll.

Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes from August 28, 2019. Seeing no reason not to approve them the Commission proceeded with doing so.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Brien to approve the minutes of August 28, 2019 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Huber and passed by majority vote.

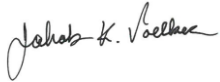
Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

493 Main Street

Mr. Huber then turned to a leak at 493 Main Street. SWSS has investigated and the leak is 10 feet from the road. The house in question is in foreclosure. Mr. O'Brien asked if someone is living on the premises. It was unclear. Mr. Simmons noted that the septic for 493 Main is located under the front lawn. So the leak there could be related to the septic, but if so it would have an odor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Brien at 6:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilkins and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jakob K. Voelker".

Jakob K. Voelker
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Water Department