



OFFICE OF THE
WATER DEPARTMENT
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Water Commission Minutes
Wednesday, November 26, 2019

Approved: 12/26/19

John O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
Other members present: Scott Wilkins
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, lower level
In attendance: Harold Simmons, Advisory Board; Brian Palaia, Town Administrator

Reviewed & Signed:

- Monthly Bills
- Monthly Payroll

Well No. 1 Operational Update

Mr. O'Brien noted that there really isn't much to update on Well No. 1.

Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Wilkins reported briefly on the current work on the Access Road. Things are mostly waiting on the contractor. Mr. O'Brien then reported on the latest with the chlorination issue on Pleasant Street and the impact that had on the Water Main part of the project. The contractor is billing for lost time among other things for being held up on the project due to the chlorination. The Water Dept.'s engineers, are following up on the additional expenses to determine what the accurate cost overrun is if any. Mr. Simmons asked if there were contingencies for overruns. Mr. O'Brien responded that the town was very careful to ensure so. Mr. Palaia noted that the contingency is 10 percent. The overall cost of the project including contingencies is about \$2.6 million. Otherwise, the Tank part of the project won't be going forward until the spring given winter weather.

SWSS Update

Mr. Wilkins briefly reported on the update that SWSS provided to the Board of Selectmen at its meeting held on November 19. This covered the chlorination situation on Pleasant Street. Mr. Palaia followed up by noting that DEP's theory was that the new pipe was installed with some sediment in it, which was likely the reason for the coliform bacteria that was showing up in the tests. Thankfully that bacteria itself was not harmful, but it was indicative of other potential bacteria's that could be which was why DEP wanted the chlorination done. Mr. Wilkin's noted it is hard to prove or disprove what the exact causation of the problem was, only that it was there and that it has been resolved according to the mandatory testing ordered by DEP. Mr. Palaia noted that last week's results were clear and the next set of results should be out shortly. Mr. Wilkin's felt that if this week had failed, the Water Dept. would likely have heard by now. Mr. Palaia submitted that aside from the bacteria situation there are still air pockets in the pipe, so flushing continues to be ongoing with SWSS doing it roughly every other day.

Department Operations Update

Mr. Wilkins noted that some new equipment was purchased for the Water Dept. one piece of it having to do with the flushing SWSS did. Other equipment included meters. Mr. Voelker noted that one of the houses on Pleasant Street appears to have somehow lost its meter. This house is the same one that had the water leak over a year ago, that resulted in significant damage. The current owner claims that there was no meter when he bought it to repair. Regardless, one of the new meters needs to go on that house. Mr. Wilkins finished up on this topic by noting that there continues to be a beaver issue and they need to be removed.

Next Meeting/Regular Meetings

The next regularly scheduled meeting would normally be tentatively be set for December 18, 2019. However, due to the holiday season, this date may change.

Authorization of Accounts Payable & Payroll

The Commission considered and signed off on several bills. These included normal monthly bills from SWSS, National Grid, and True North. There were also bills relating to the Water Infrastructure Project, mainly relating Police Dept. off duty details. The Commission then reviewed and approved payment of the bills and also signed department payroll.

Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes from October 30, 2019. Seeing no reason not to approve them the Commission proceeded with doing so.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkins to approve the minutes of October 30, 2019 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed by majority vote.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

493 Main Street Leak

A letter went out regarding water shut off. In the intervening time, Mr. O'Brien reached out to the broker for the bank and was able to communicate with the bank, HSBC, to make them aware of the need for the repair. The bank acknowledged as property owner that they are responsible, but have not taken any action. Mr. Voelker submitted that in that event, the repair should be done by the Water Dept. and the bill placed on the tax bill for February so that the bank will pay it. It was so agreed. Mr. Voelker then agreed to coordinate the matter further with Ms. Bresnick. Mr. Palaia noted he too has reached out to the bank and made it clear that some action would be taken either water shut off or a repair with bill sent to them. Mr. Voelker asked the Commission if it had a preference. Mr. Wilkins noted that the tenant is paying the water bill, so it may make more sense to pursue fixing the leak and billing the bank. It was decided to pursue the option of fixing the leak. If that is not feasible shut off can be pursued instead.

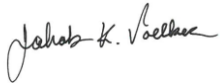
Pleasant Street Plantings & Paving Questions

Mr. Voelker briefly updated the Commission on the meeting, which was cancelled due to lack of quorum. This included the expressed concerns of Mr. Dean and Mr. Lewon. Mr. O'Brien felt as to Mr. Deans concerns, that the area in question was within the public right of way and the contract the town had in place with its contractor was for the replacement of any disturbed area with loam and

grass seed. Mr. Wilkins agreed noting that neither Mr. Dean nor Mrs. Dean came forward at the time the work was being done, and both have conceded that they were home. Mr. Simmons submitted that there would be little cost to the department to satisfy their request for the ground to be restored. He noted Mr. Dean was more concerned with the type of soil put down and the grass seed. They simply want the area dug up again with better loam and no grass seed so they can replant their plantings around their mailboxes. This would simply be neighborly. Mr. Wilkins noted the issue with Mr. Lewon and the paving specifically. The area will be milled and repaved in the spring. Mr. Palaia submitted that the conditions of that part of Pleasant Street were not fully understood and the patch in that area should hold until spring at least. Mr. Wilkins returned to the issue of the plantings noting that it may be difficult to address as Highway Dept. is undermanned and the project along Pleasant Street is complete until spring. It was agreed to look into the matter to determine feasibility. As for the paving question, that simply won't be dealt with until the spring.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wilkins at 6:05 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien 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