



OFFICE OF THE
WATER DEPARTMENT
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Water Commission Minutes
Thursday, December 26, 2019

Approved: 1/22/20

Karl Huber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
Other members present: John O'Brien, Scott Wilkins
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 that Well No. 1 continues to have an issue. The well is due to have a calibration on its flow. There is redundancy, but still Mr. O'Brien expressed worry about DEP being dissatisfied. Mr. Huber followed that the current plan is to settle and rectify any issues.

Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Huber reported there have been a few change orders requested by the contractor. The last big issue for the access road was plowing. Highway Dept. was hesitant to plow given concerns about markings for work done. This turned out to be fortuitous as there was an unfinished area covered by a plate and so it was wise of Highway Dept. to ask for the contractor to take care of the plowing. Mr. Simmons noted that he's seen some Highway Dept. equipment subsequent so they must now feel comfortable with it. Mr. Huber agreed. Mr. Simmons noted some concerns expressed by the Board of Selectmen as to one of the change orders that cost \$14,000. He suggested the Commission look into the matter. Mr. Huber and Mr. O'Brien agreed with Mr. O'Brien noting that it's hard to see the perspective from the viewpoint of a bill, but the town can look into it more closely. It was agreed to discuss the matter further with the Town Administrator's help. There was some discussion regarding the pipe on Pleasant Street and what caused the bacteria issue that DEP was concerned about which necessitated the chlorination. Questions were asked of the contractor as to the state of the pipe and whether any sediment could have made it into the new pipe or perhaps the valves and connecting pieces. Mr. Wilkin's noted that when working, dirt and sediment can get. So usually, there is a cleaning as part of the process of installation. He noted that common sense tells us there is a chain of events that takes place. The matter may be mooted, Mr. Huber conceded, but it's still a concern. Hopefully with the tank things will go only in the right direction. Mr. Huber then asked for the sense of the Commission as to the color of the paint on the tank. Mr. O'Brien suggested strongly avoiding something bright like orange. It was noted that there should be enough contingency left to handle the change orders. But the tank question could make things tighter. It was noted that the staging area for the tank would be the same as for the Pleasant Street pipe. Police details may be incurred when some of the initial equipment arrives once that part of the project begins.

SWSS Update

Mr. Huber reported that things appear to be going as planned. Discussion then shifted to the chlorination matter on Pleasant Street. The estimate for chlorination work was \$1,957; SWSS's ultimate bill was for \$3,653.50. That included the second chlorination, which came in at a lower amount of \$1,696.50. Mr. Wilkins felt that it was reasonable from SWSS's perspective under the circumstances. Mr. O'Brien suggested following up on that bill and the change orders related to the infrastructure project.

Department Operations Update

Mr. Huber reported on operations issues including with a bill for a ratepayer. This prompted a question about the bill for residents on Pleasant Street from the period of flushing and chlorination. Mr. Wilkins noted the flushing shouldn't have hit the meter for any house. Otherwise, ops are good.

Next Meeting/Regular Meetings

The next regularly scheduled meeting would normally be tentatively be set for January 22, 2020. However, this date is subject to 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 the repair bill for 493 Main Street. The Commission then reviewed and approved payment of the bills and also signed department payroll.

Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes from November 26, 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 November 26, 2019 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Huber and passed without objection.

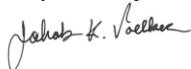
Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

493 Main Street Leak

The Commission noted that the cost of the repair was approximately \$1,775. Mr. Voelker interjected that Ms. Bresnick has sent a copy of the bill to the realtor for the current owner HSBC. Other steps may need to be taken to ensure that the bank pays for the repair as they are the owner of the property and are responsible for this type of repair as such. Mr. Huber noted that the work was done quickly due to the cold temperatures. Mr. O'Brien reported that he's spoken with the realtor and the bank now has the bill. It should hopefully be paid soon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wilkins at 6:41 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Voelker
Administrative Assistant, Dunstable Water Department