



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, January 22, 2020

Approved: 2/26/20

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: David Bray

Reviewed & Signed:

- Monthly Bills
- Monthly Payroll

Well No. 1 Operational Update & Department Operations Update

Mr. Bray reported a recent incident at the well site. He noted that the pH monitor box was open and the power was off. The panel and gage indicated far too much pressure. It appears that the power was shutoff. Mr. Huber noted that this was part of the ongoing project, but it wasn't supposed to happen in this manner. Mr. Bray agreed stressing the danger that this situation nearly caused. It would have brought DEP back in, and could have been catastrophic for the system had the pressure fallen too low. The only thing that was supposed to be done in this instance was fiber optics that should not have involved full power shutoff. Mr. Bray stressed the fact that no electrical work can be done without the knowledge of the water operators because of exactly this kind of situation. Thankfully, the matter was addressed before anything worse could happen. Mr. Bray noted a few other housekeeping matters as to the pH probe and related meters. There is an emerging problem with the pH probe that appears to be the result of some of the new work. Normally some of these changes wouldn't make much of a difference, but in this case, it may have. Monitoring will continue to ensure that the pH is what it should be. This isn't at a stage that's worth getting alarmed about, as the building of the water tower in the spring will help address the matter. Mr. Bray then elaborated on steps being taken to ensure that things are treated properly and any changes don't create future problems. Flushing, testing, and sampling will continue as required by DEP. The meter out there is still a problem. Mr. Huber asked for clarification, including if the issue is about location. Mr. Bray responded its registering 50-80 gallons a flow and that adds up to a huge number. He elaborated on SWSS's work to determine the cause. It was agreed to consult with David Tully to find out if he ever encountered this when he was Water Superintendent. Meantime Mr. Bray felt confident the matter can be resolved rapidly. As for the shutting off of the power, it was agreed to consult with the department's engineers and the contractor to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Huber reported on the last preconstruction meeting, which regarded the access road project. The main topic of discussion was a change order. Mr. O'Brien reported on his discussions with the town's engineers and the contractor working on this part of the project. The main issue surrounds a meter for National Grid's service and the placing of that meter on a wooden poll rather than on a metal poll. The wood poll is to code and is approved of by National Grid. Still, as Mr. Bray noted, even pressure treated wood can rot out and it does seem better to use a steel post. The real

question is the cost. Mr. Huber reminded the change order could cost as much as \$14,000. While there is contingency built into the project, this is not an insignificant sum. To some extent, this is more about aesthetics, aside from the practicalities of wood versus steel. Mr. O'Brien asked if the bid specified. That was unclear. It was agreed that should be looked into, as if it was specified the town has a case. If not, then it's tough given the costs. Mr. Huber expressed the concern about protecting the meter. Mr. Wilkins noted that protective posts were placed around it. Mr. O'Brien felt that the problem is that it looks temporary. Mr. Bray agreed submitting if that was metal, people would feel differently. Mr. Voelker brought to the Commission's attention a recent change order that might be illuminating to the discussion. Mr. Huber responded that it appears that some savings was found which established a credit that could assist with this. Mr. O'Brien brought it back to looking at the contract and establishing what was required whether it was meant for it to be on the metal or on pressure treated wood. Mr. Wilkins noted that there really haven't been any substantial deviations. Regardless the plans should be looked at and it be determined what was quoted and what was decided upon and whether this was done for expediency or because it was the minimum described by National Grid. Until then, correspondence would be had with appropriate parties.

SWSS Update

Mr. Huber asked Mr. Bray if there is anything critical in the next few weeks. He responded that aside from his report regarding Well No. 1, not really. Things are otherwise normal.

Next Meeting/Regular Meetings

The next regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively set for February 26, 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, AmeriGas, and postage. The Commission then reviewed and approved payment of the bills and also signed department payroll.

Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes from December 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 December 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

Mr. Voelker reported that the bill to the contractor who fixed the leak was paid, and according to Ms. Bresnick, the bank has told her that they are in process for paying the town for conducting the repair and expect to have that completed within 3-4 weeks.

165 Pleasant Street

The resident at 165 Pleasant Street provided photographic documentation of his claim as to disturbance of his property due to the Pleasant Street portion of the project. The Commission determined that this requires further research as the picture does show some disturbance. It was

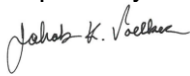
agreed one of the Commissioners would go down and visually inspect the area, then report back for further consideration.

70 Pleasant Street

Mr. Huber reported on a request by the resident of 70 Pleasant Street contesting the recent water bill as a result of the chlorination problem that occurred on Pleasant Street. The water ratepayer notes in their correspondence that they had to flush water in their home and that they had an adverse reaction to the chlorination. Mr. Bray noted that the billing is done twice a year. Mr. O'Brien agreed noting that the billing is semiannual. Given the rate structure, most of that bill is likely for water used aside from the flushing. The first \$186 is essentially a minimum charge as each bill cycle has a \$60 service charge and then \$126 for the first 10,000 gallons used. So given the bill in question, the amount in question would be the difference. It was agreed to have Ms. Bresnick research the matter further to help the Commission determine how to proceed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Brien at 7:07 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilkins and passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Voelker
Administrative Assistant, Dunstable Water Department