



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

3 North Main Street . P.O. Box 438 . Assonet, MA 02702  
508.644.4000 . Fax: 508.644.2053

## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 8/25/2017

8:30AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck  
Staff present: Keven Desmarais; Steven Chandler  
Meeting being recorded by Paul Sadeck and Steven Chandler

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2017 SEP -5 PM 12:27  
*q. Brown*

### By-pass Valve Project

- Keven Desmarais explains that two tapping sleeves and the vault have been installed. The engineers redesigned the vault to be 8" thick instead of 6" thick and have added an extended footing at the same cost as proposed. The valve is due to be installed within the next couple of business days.

### South Main Street Filtration Site

- Ryan Trahan, Environmental Partners Group, is still working on coordinating a meeting date with MassDEP to discuss the results and a plan with which to move forward.

### Environmental Partners Group

- Bob Parker states that we have to watch the budget and be sure that testing is being done only as needed. Keven assures him that testing is done as previously outlined to track THM levels while the FW&SC is bleeding lines. Once he bleeding has shown to keep THM levels down, or MassDEP gives the go ahead, frequency of testing can be reduced.
- Paul Sadeck is concerned that the FW&SC does not have a schedule ahead of time for the billable hours that the Commission is being charged. Bills are received and paid without the benefit of being able to budget a specific amount of funds to pay EPG.

### THM Testing and DEP

- Keven Desmarais explains that the quarterly THM test results came back with a 70 parts per billion as the highest number is the series which is lower than the required 80 parts per billion. Working with Fall River and bleeding five of our lines is working to keep THM levels within MassDEP requirements. Keven feels that the FW&SC may have to install permanent bleeders. This process has shown to be effective and installing permanent bleeders may keep the Commission from having to build and maintain the larger filter site but this will be determined by DEP.
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## **Water Rates and Info for Area Towns**

- Chandler provided a list of towns and water rates.
- Paul Sadeck asks if the FW&SC needs to look at creating different rates for different customer types.
  - Keven Desmarais explains that Kim Fales, Town Accountant, suggests the FW&SC have an outside consultant look at possible changes to rates and how they are structured as it relates to the overall health of the Enterprise Fund.
  - Bob Parker made a commitment to George Grunwald, Finance Committee Chair, to look at rates from other towns but did not make any promises to make changes.
  - Keven goes onto explain that Chandler has been gathering information and bounced it off of him for thoughts. Keven feels it is difficult to compare other towns to Freetown based on water rates alone. What are others charging for fees? Where are they getting their water from? If they are producing their own water the cost is pennies compared to having to purchase water from a supplier so they can afford to charge less in rates. More research would have to be done to see what the % of mark-up is there? How many customers do they service? Like Lakeville...they have residents who have city water but the City of New Bedford supplies them with water directly.

## **City of Fall River Water Dept.**

- Nothing new to report.

## **City of New Bedford Water Dept.**

- Bob Parker will make a call again to set up a meeting.

## **Budget**

- Now that the Water and Sewer funds have been combined, and retained earnings have been posted, the Commission needs to decide if they want to move the retained earnings to supplement line items and if so, which line items will be increased. And, to decide if they would like to create a reserve fund for the FW&SC. A meeting shall be scheduled for Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 9:30AM. Chandler will contact Kim Fales and invite her to attend. Keven will call Churchill & Banks and invite them to attend.

## **Billing**

- Regarding the bill from Environmental Partners Group (EPG), Keven and Chandler went through the invoice to determine which projects are being billed and which line item they shall be applied. There is not enough funding in the Professional & Technical - Engineering Fees line item to support the invoices from EPG. It is determined to use the Professional & Technical – White Water line item. This line item is not just for White Water and will have a name change at a later date.

## **Ashland/ISP Land**

- Bob Parker feels the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission should still pursue acquiring the land should the Commission need it in the future. He will call and see how far along they are in the process of turning it over to the Town.

**Department Vehicle**

- Keven Desmarais has a call into MHQ to set up a meeting for next week for himself and Bob.

**GPS Equipment**

- Keven will take Lauren Moreau out and begin the process of setting the GPS equipment up for use. Paul Sadeck is interested in joining them.

**Approve Minutes**

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to accept the July 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 minutes. Bob Parker 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Sign Bills**

- Chandler received a bill from New Bedford for water used in the Pinewood Court route but, there is a base rate fee of \$2,579.88 and it should not be there since there is no meter owned by New Bedford. Chandler is waiting to hear back from Cheryl Simone at New Bedford.

**Other Business**

- Keven states that Churchill & Banks would like to meet with the Commissioners to discuss the parcel of land they own in Assonet and determine the water and sewer capacity the Town can provide for them to develop the land.

Paul Sadeck makes motion to adjourn. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler  
Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission