



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 5/13/2019

Meeting held at Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA 02702

9:30AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck; Brad Paiva  
Staff present: Keven Desmarais; Steven Chandler  
Attendee: Mark Rosofsky

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2019 JUN 21 AM 10:02  
ga Breen

Meeting being recorded by Paul Sadeck, Chandler, and Mark Rosofsky

### Final Read Fee

- Currently a fee of \$85.00 and this fee is applied for every final read completed by Keven Desmarais for the purposes for a sale or refinance of property within the Water Department database. Keven and Chandler have received complaints from water customers stating that the fee surpasses the water used between the last quarterly read and the final read. Sometimes the final read may be scheduled a couple weeks after the quarterly. If one unit of water which costs \$6.70 was used with a fee of \$85.00 added on it appears over the top.
- Both Keven and Chandler would like to see the fee reduced to \$50.00. This is the same fee to have Keven go out a shut off/turn on water at curb stop and is a more reasonable figure.
- Brad Paiva makes a motion to reduce final read fee to \$65.00. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Radio Read Meters

- Batteries
  - The manufacturer that produces meters for MasterMeter, Inc. had an issue with the batteries installed in radio read meters. The batteries are supposed to last 12-15 years but a certain group of meters that were produced and installed between 2010 and 2013 are only lasting 4-7 years. When the meter is read or interrogated only 0.1% of battery life should be used for this action, but, it was using 1.0% each time the meter was read. After reading/interrogating the meter a certain number of times the battery dies and Keven needs to replace the meter.
  - The supplier Core & Main informed us of this issue on April 10th and said it was a national problem, asked Chandler to create a list of defective meters, and forward it to them. He sent the list to Core & Main and was told that someone from MasterMeter will be reaching out directly regarding the issue.

- **Manufacturer**
  - Keven asks if the Commission would consider exploring switching to a different meter.
  - Brad asks if the equipment we currently use will work with a meter other than MasterMeter. This will be part of the research into switching meter companies.
- **Replacement**
  - Supplier intimated that MasterMeter will replace the heads at no cost the FW&SC.

### **Final Management Letter (audit)**

- The Commissioners had received the final letter from Kim Fales and accept the findings as complete.

### **Grant Program Funds**

- Kim Fales, Town Accountant, sent Chandler an email with information regarding grant funding in the amount of \$5,701.80 that has been on the books and rolling over since around 2010. The funds are from an old Water Conservation Grant Program 2005-2010. Chandler had forwarded the grant info along with Kim's recommendation that it be used for a rate study.
- It is unclear that if a rate study is completed would the Commission be bound and obligated to adopt and implement the findings of the study. Chandler shall do some research to find out if this is in fact the case and will report back at the next meeting.

### **End of Year Memo from Kim Fales**

- The Commissioners have determined that there is no need to transfer funds from retained earnings and there are no expected purchases requiring funding before end of the fiscal year.

### **City of Fall River Abatement**

- Chandler emailed Tom Tighe, City of Fall River, and explained that we are still waiting for a decision regarding the abatement for water used to flush lines that the Water Department was charged for inadvertently. Chandler also stated that demand notices were sent to FW&SC for past due bills. Tom said he is looking into it and will get back to him.
- Paul Sadeck reminds everyone that if this doesn't get resolved before the end of this fiscal year [June 30, 2019] any water outstanding bills will have to wait to be paid after the fall Town meeting in October.
- Bob Parker will give Tom Tighe a call.

### **Assonet Sewer Extension Study**

- A project update letter dated March 22, 2019 was sent to David DeManche, Town Administrator. The letter was sent to water department and Chandler forwarded it to the Commissioners.
- Other than providing information to Environmental Partners Group the FW&SC has no involvement or oversight on the study. The Board of Selectmen procured funding and shall determine if the project is feasible based on cost.

**Land At Ashland ISP**

- Bob Parker left Eric Morin a message and has not heard back. He'll try and contact Eric Morin again.

**City of New Bedford Agreement**

- Bob Parker will contact again.

**Regular Business**

- Approve minutes:
  - March 28, 2019
    - Brad Paiva makes a motion to approve. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Abatement for Fire Department.
- Signed bills

**Unanticipated Business**

- URGENT: The water department received an email from Jim McLaughlin, MassDEP, regarding a proposed amendment to the current Administrative Consent Order (ACO). Jim is mailing copies to be reviewed and signed and if acceptable, both copies are to be signed by the Board of Selectmen and the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission. Both copies are to be returned by May 31, 2019.
- The warranty for GPS software maintenance plan is expiring July. There is a one and two year plan available. Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve renewing the maintenance of software for two years. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

Brad Paiva makes motion to adjourn at 9:59AM. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Senior Clerk  
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission