



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 5/26/2021

Meeting held at Council On Aging, 227 Chace Road, East Freetown, MA

1:00PM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck; Lee Baumgartner  
Staff present: Steven Chandler; Keven Desmarais  
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Alves

Meeting being audio recorded by Paul Sadeck and Chandler

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2021 JUL 19 PM 1:36  
Chace. Sadeck

### Discussion Quanapoag Road Infrastructure

- The Alves' are having a problem with sediment entering their water system in the house. It was discovered that buildup and rocks were getting through the meter and into the hot water heater.
  - When the water line was installed for the Alves' 30 years ago, they were promised a fire hydrant a couple years after water line installation since they are at the end of the line. Howard Wilbur promised them the hydrant and it has now been almost 30 years.
  - Mr. Alves would regularly have conversations with Mr. Wilbur and Mr. Wilbur had his assistant change their meter due to sediment and rock build up in the line.
- Keven Desmarais states that this is the first he and the Board have heard of this issue at this address and the FWD has no record of the water line, or the two curb stops at their property.
  - He apologizes that it has taken 30 years but now that the issue is known a solution will be worked on.
  - Keven has been with the water dept for 15 years and it was before he come to work here.
  - He spoke with a neighbor to try to get some history, but they do not recall anything.
  - Keven requests that customer show him where the curb stops are located so that Keven can put them on a plan for future need.
  - Keven will speak with Wayne Cunningham who lives down the road for any information he may have about the line.
- The Board recommends the FW&SC purchases filters for the customer until the issue can be resolved. Mrs. Alves will email the make/model of filtration system and filter number to Chandler who will research and find filters to purchase.

- Keven thanks the Alves' for bringing up this issue and thanking for coming down to meet; they have been very patient the past 30 years.
- He will meet at the Alves' house on June 2, 2021 at 5:15pm to find curb stops and try to find water main in road. Chandler to contact Wayne Cunningham to invite him to attend and see if he recalls anything about the line.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to have FW&SC purchase filter for customer. Lee Baumgartner 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

Richard Troland and a contractor have attended this meeting discuss the water line extension to Ste. John Neumann Church, East Freetown, for fire suppression. They need the underground cistern connected to the water line and permit to have fire suppression line activated. The church cannot get an occupancy permit without it.

- Chandler had explained in emails that the water line at that address does not belong to the Town of Freetown but to the City of New Bedford. He suggested they contact NB to get a permit for the line.
- Keven has a plan from 1992 (not created or permitted by Freetown) that shows the water line coming off the transmission main and into Middleboro Road.
  - He explains the map and water line layout to Richard which include various size pipes of various ages. Some have asbestos. Some are 100 years old. NB no longer wants to deal with these lines.
  - To the Board's knowledge, the water line in that area has never belonged to Freetown.
  - Church gets a bill from New Bedford.
  - In the past, the City of New Bedford has addressed issues in that water line.
  - The City of New Bedford denies it is their line and sending people back to FW&SC.
  - To date, permitting has been done through NB and water bills are through NB.
- Lee Baumgartner states that the Board had meet with Ymané Galotti, Superintendent of Water with City of New Bedford, but the meeting was cut short because Ymané did not want the meeting to be recorded and made public.
- Keven lets Richard know that the state requires a road opening permit along Middleboro Road aka Route 118 because it is a state route.
- Richard will contact the state about the road opening permit. He will contact billing department in New Bedford since the bills to church come from New Bedford, which should prove to Ymané that the line is theirs.

#### **Approve Meeting Minutes from March 5<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve. Lee Baumgartner 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **Staffing**

- In preparation of Keven Desmarais retiring in a few years, the Board should create a plan.
- Lee Baumgartner suggests hiring a full-time licensed person to do the work that WhiteWater does for the FW&SC, and a part-time licensed person so there is not just one person to do all the work. It would be cost neutral if the Indirect Costs were reduced or eliminated.
- Keven speaks to the tasks and person needed.
  - FW&SC would still want to utilize WhiteWater to conduct backflow testing and on a as-needed basis.
  - The full-time person would do all of the boots on the ground tasks that WhiteWater does currently.
  - The ASR and CCR reporting along with monthly lab reporting could be done by a licensed employee.
  - A part-time person can do meter reads and to assist full-time person.
  - If indirect costs can be reduced or eliminated, it would save some money which can be used to hire staff at competitive rates.
  - Licensed operators are far and few between; people aren't going into the field.
  - Keven suggests meeting with the BOS to make them aware of the Enterprise Fund and the Indirect Costs charged by the Town.
- Keven suggests meeting with the BOS to make them aware of how the Water Department operates, the Enterprise Fund, and the Indirect Costs charged by the Town.
  - Bob Parker will contact BOS to set up a meeting.
- Paul Sadeck states that a new agreement with the Board of Selectmen will be coming up and unless Indirect Costs are not removed he will not sign.

## **Approve and Sign Abatements and Credit**

- Two accounts had quarterly fee inadvertantly charged when accounts should have been put on hold after final reads were done.
- A credit adjustment was created to remove interest charged because Tax Collector misplaced payment.
- All have been approved and signed.

## **No bills to sign.**

Paul Sadeck motion to adjourn at 2:39PM. Lee Baumgartner 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler  
Senior Clerk  
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission