



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 8/25/2021

Meeting held at FW&SC office, Town Hall, 3 North Main, Assonet, MA

11:00AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck; Lee Baumgartner
Staff present: Keven Desmarais; Steven Chandler

Meeting being audio recorded by Paul Sadeck and Chandler

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2022 FEB 15 PM 2:28

MasterMeter Contract

- Commissioners read the Agreement and attachment. The FW&SC does not sign agreements and contracts, so Commissioners agree the documents should be sent to Freetown Board of Selectmen (BOS) for review and signatures.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to send contract to Board of Selectmen and suggests having Town Counsel review before BOS signs. Lee Baumgartner 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rate Increases . Cities of New Bedford and Fall River

- Chandler reviews the current rates charged Freetown by New Bedford and Fall River.
 - City of New Bedford increases per CCU rate by 0.34 cents
 - City of Fall River has not yet announced their increase. Chandler has reached out to Fall River water department a couple of times and was told that FR City Council is reviewing.
- Paul Sadeck reviews information received to date and recommends increases to Freetown rates accordingly.

Quanapoag Road Water Line

- Keven Desmarais has been out there working on determining where the water line is within the road layout.
 - He had spoken with several residents and he was told that approximately 30 years ago, two residents were involved in having a water lines installed and paid for them.
 - Keven enlisted the help of Warren Verga who confirmed where all the curb stops are located. There is a second water main. Also discovered that the water lines appear like spaghetti and have no clear reason for the way they are layed out.

- There are no drawn plans found for this infrastructure from 30 years ago. Chandler will look to see if there are any permit applications with the building or health departments pertaining to water lines for any address on Quanapoag.

City of Fall River . Meeting

- Commissioners would like to meet with representatives of the City of Fall River to discuss the pending \$174,357.24 bill they say Freetown owes. Chandler will contact Tom Tighe in Fall River to set up a meeting.

Article for Special Town Meeting (STM)

- An article regarding the FW&SC Enterprise Fund (EF) has been drafted and submitted to the BOS for inclusion in the Warrant for the STM on October 8, 2021. This article is a request to change the FW&SC from an Enterprise Fund back to a Town department. With only 672 customers to carry the load of costs associated with maintaining and improving both (Assonet and East Freetown) water infrastructure systems, it does not make sense to continue as an EF.

South Main Street Water & Sewer Lines

- FW&SC attended BOS meeting and it was decided that this will have to be a Town project to be voted on at Town Meeting.
- BOS will research funding options.

Residential Sewer Rate

- Chandler had sent a draft of letter for commissioners to review which will be used to send to the one current residential water customer. This letter is an explanation of cost and how usage is determined.
- Commissioners directed Chandler to send customer an email with the residential sewer rate is \$10.92 per unit, and, the number of units is calculated at 70% of water usage.

Indirect Cost Charges . FY2022

- Kim Fales suggested the FW&SC meet with her, Board of Selectmen to discuss how to mitigate charges of \$98k+ annually. Commissioners feel the FW&SC should not be charged when other departments are not charged this much. Paul Sadeck will not sign paperwork for increase in this year's indirect costs.

Hire Credentialed Employee

- Discussion of hiring a credentialed employee with a D3 operators license instead of paying an outside company do all of the work.
 - Will wait until after STM in October to determine if there will be funds to hire an operator.

Unanticipated Business

Line Item to Purchase Meters

- At the suggestion of Kim Fales, the budget line item for meters was removed so that the FW&SC budget would not be rejected by DOR.
 - Meters will be paid for at end of fiscal year by transferring funds from retained earnings.

Keys

- Chandler had keys made and gave to each Commissioner.

Approve Minutes

- July 19, 2021 and July 28, 2021
- Paul Sadeck makes motion to approve minutes. Lee 2nd. All in favor. Motioned carried.

Paul Sadeck motion to adjourn at 12:12PM. Lee Baumgartner 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler
Senior Clerk
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission