



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 2/17/2016

9:38AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker; Brad Paiva; Paul Sadeck
Staff present: Steven Chandler and Keven Desmarais
Guest: Ryan Trahan, Environmental Partners Group

Meeting being recorded by Steven Chandler and Paul Sadeck

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Improvements to Filter Site

- Ryan Trahan states that the valve project is officially out to bid with approximately six contractors who have taken out plans and specs.
- A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 10:00AM at Town Hall. There will be an introduction for everyone who attends followed by a site visit so that interested contractors will see what is involved on site, where utilities are located, etc. After that meeting an addendum consisting of the minutes from the pre-bid meeting will go out to all plan holders.
- The bid opening is scheduled for March 2, 2017 at 2:00PM at the Town Hall.
- Once valve is installed a representative from the valve manufacturer will come out and do testing of the valve and calibrate as needed and demonstrate how to keep the valve calibrated to the needs of the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission.
- For maintenance needed on the valve in the future, Ryan will provide contact information for a company he recommends.
- Guarantee for the contractor work of installation is one year and the valve itself will have its own manufacturer's guarantee which will be provided once it is installed.

DEP Sanitary Survey

- The Freetown Water & Sewer Commission (FW&SC) received a Certificate of Non-Compliance from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the same reasons as the CNC issued in 2013. Environmental Partners Group (EPG) was brought on board in 2013 to work with the FW&SC come up with a plan of action to address the requirements identified by DEP. EPG created a treatment analysis and presented options to move forward which includes building a facility structure to enclose and house the filtration system which in turn would meet the requirements of the DEP.
- Non-compliance was also given for the six properties who are not on the water line with the filter site but who have individual filters on the premises and are maintained by the FW&SC. DEP's concern at the time of the review was that one of the six residents would not give the FW&SC access. Since that time access has been granted and their filter is now online and operating.

- Ryan Trahan of EPG feels that based on the budget cycle, the FW&SC is unable to meet deadlines as outlined by DEP. The response form provided in DEP's recent report should be filled out, signed and the FW&SC will provide projected dates to meet compliance goals.
- If compliance is not met by the FW&SC, the DEP could impose large daily cumulative fines on top of the amount it would cost to do the work to meet compliance requirements outlined by DEP.
- Meeting the requirements set forth by the DEP will help ensure that the flow of water the town receives and quality of water residents receive will not only benefit the current water customers but will also benefit the whole town. The Town of Freetown will be able to provide better fire safety and grow its commercial/industrial base which will in turn bring in more tax dollars which in turn benefits all the residents and business of Freetown.
- Ryan Trahan estimates the cost to bring the Town of Freetown compliant with the DEP will be approximately \$1.5 million for the existing site.
- The Commission needs to make decisions and give direction to Environmental Partners Group so that they can determine what the budget is going to be to determine a time frame and what the needs are in order to create a design for the improvements.
- Paul Sadeck suggests meeting with Kim Fales, Town Accountant, and explaining that the funds are a capital improvement and a warrant article needs to be written for this year's annual town meeting to borrow the funds needed. The town needs to understand that the Commission has delayed DEP compliance for a long time and can no longer delay the work that needs to be done.
- Brads motion to move forward with \$1.5 million warrant article to allow the town of Freetown to be in compliance with DEP and expand the filter site to size for future expansion. Paul 2nd motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion that based on the prior motion, the cost associated with meeting the DEP requirements in the prior motion, is born by the Town of Freetown and not the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission. The FW&SC cannot fund that project and it's a Town issue not an issue of the water customers in Assonet. 407 water customers in Assonet cannot fund the \$1.5 million requirement put upon the Town by the Department of Environmental Protection agency. Bob 2nd motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Keven Desmarais, along with White Water, Inc., will draft a response to DEP and send it to the Commissioners for review. The response needs to be submitted by March 7, 2017.

EPA Credit Assistance Funding Program

- Ryan Trahan explains that this program is for projects with a minimum of \$5 million cost. It could be used for a sewer extension but the Commission would need to have a study done to prove the need for a sewer extension.
- Paul Sadeck reminds the Commission that the greatest need for sewer extension would be for commercial entities and if an extension is needed it could be paid for by said entities if they are in need of sewer services.
- Bob Parker feels we should research the need for expanding the water line from Chace Road which would benefits the grammar school.
- Keven Desmarais to get water usage for the past three years to Ryan Trahan.

Sewer Extension Study

- Tabling for the time being.

Annual Town Report

- Keven Desmarais and Chandler drafted and submitted to Bob Parker who approved report. Chandler submitted approved report to Ali Golz in the Town Manager's office.

Proposed Water & Sewer Commission Fees

- Tabled for now.

Stop & Shop/Fall River Meter

- Tabled for now.

Budget for FY2018

- Budget has been created with the exception of what the FW&SC needs are for capital outlay and borrowing.

FW&SC Forms

- Tabled for now.

FW&SC Emergency Procedures

- Tabled for now.

City of New Bedford Water & Sewer Agreement

- Bob Parker will call to try and set up a meeting for next Friday, February 24, 2017.

Approve Minutes

- Brad Paiva makes a motion to approve minutes from January 23, 2017. Bob 2nd motion. Brad and Bob in favor; Paul Sadeck abstains (was absent from that meeting). Motion carried.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve minutes from February 3, 2017. Bob 2nd. Paul and Bob in favor; Brad Paiva abstains (was absent from that meeting). Motion carried.

Operational opportunities

- Regarding the senior work program for possible part-time associate to help with meter reading, etc. Paul Sadeck makes a motion to research a match for the Commissions needs and bring them on board. Bob 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Sign Invoices.

Meeting Adjourned

- Brad Paiva makes motion to adjourn. Paul Sadeck 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

- TBA

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler

Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission