



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 7/7/2017

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2017 SEP -5 PM 12:27

9:00AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker; Brad Paiva; Paul Sadeck  
Staff present: Keven Desmarais; Steven Chandler  
Guest: Ryan Trahan, Environmental Partners Group (EPG)  
Meeting being recorded by Paul Sadeck and Steven Chandler

### South Main Street Filtration Site

- Ryan Trahan:
  - MassDEP received the results of the weekly test that showed a result of a THM level of 92 parts per million from water coming in from Fall River. This is above the acceptable 80 parts per million.
  - From other testing locations there was only an increase of 10 parts per million which is representative of the jar testing model.
  - Ryan feels that Fall River will be flushing their lines to do their quarterly testing which in turn may affect Freetown's results.
  - If bleeding water is continued then Ryan feels that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sample will show a result of lower THM levels. Continue to bleed water through the fall until there is a freezing issue in winter.
  - MassDEP reminded Ryan that in the Sanitation Survey there is a non-compliance with a delivery date. The first part of the non-compliance was the permit, which was completed by the date due. The second part of the non-compliance is a full design of the new treatment plant with a deadline of the end of October-November. Although we are bleeding water to potentially avoid having to build the new plant, DEP says that it's written in stone that the design of the plant must be completed and submitted for approval. Ryan pushed back with MassDEP and Jim McLaughlin stated that Freetown needs to request to go into a friendly Administrative Consent Order, ACO. The ACO will allow Freetown to negotiate and extension beyond the due date. In order for MassDEP to agree to the extension, Freetown would have to install the new chemical feed improvements at the existing filter site.
  - Ryan will set up a meeting with MassDEP and the Commissioners to request an ACO.

- Spending \$100,000 on a study for MassDEP is an investment on potentially not having to spend \$3 million. If the Town does not spend the money and meet the requirements then MassDEP will impose a schedule of stringent deadlines on their terms and fine the Town up to \$1,000 per day. Then, if fines are not paid they will seek legal counsel and file a lawsuit. The ACO is when negotiations can take place regarding the deadlines for spending this money.
- The \$65,900 secured at Town meeting does not include fees from EPG associated with the chemical compliance. That funding is only for the construction and work by White Water.
  - Maybe as part of the negotiations with MassDEP, we can shift the deadline schedule so that the work won't have to be completed until the fall after the Town meeting when retained earnings are moved over.
- Ryan will contact Chandler and let him know which date to meet with the MassDEP.
- The FW&SC may want to invite the Board of Selectmen to attend the meeting with MassDEP.
- Billing for EPG will be slowing down. Ryan will provide a task by task breakdown.
- Keven Desmarais:
  - Fall River does a pre-chlorination which could be why the THM level was high coming directly from Fall River. Once the pre-chlorination gets turned off we should see a reduction in THM level next week.
  - THM levels had been coming in lower because Fall River has not been doing the pre-chlorination as frequent as they had been.
- Bob Parker:
  - Has concerns that the FW&SC does the bleeding process and they find that on November 1<sup>st</sup> the bleeding is not going to work to keep THM levels down.
  - Makes a motion to allow Ryan Trahan to set up a meeting with MassDEP on Tuesday, July 18th or 24th at 9:30AM to discuss an ACO.
- Paul Sadeck:
  - Makes a motion to have every report, information, and communication, current and retroactive, that has to do with the filter site be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. Bob Parker 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - Paul feels that having to spend money on something that may never have to be used is a waste of tax payer's money. The DEP rule that there has to be a study started at \$100,000 before a determination is made as to whether or not a new plant is needed is a stupid rule.
  - Fall River is always within their compliance so, if we test at the same time we should be within our compliance.

- We can pay for EPG services after the fall Town meeting when funds are appropriated from retained earnings.
  - We have spent over \$22,000 of the \$65,900 for service provided by EPG due to the classification as “chemical compliance” engineering work by EPG on their bill.
  - Chandler submitted bills to be paid based on this classification not knowing that the funds did not include EPG engineering services. The FW&SC did not know this either.
- Let the Board of Selectmen know that the Commissioners and Ryan Trahan will be attending the BOS meeting on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Council On Aging for the public discussion portion. Chandler to email Timm McIntosh and ask him to let the BOS Chair know that the Commission will be attending to present information.

### **By-pass Valve Project**

- Ryan Trahan:
  - Will meet with CN Corp on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Keven will attend and record meeting. Environmental Partners Group (EPG) will issue minutes.

### **Budget**

- Paul Sadeck will take the budget created by Kim Fales and transfer it into the Money Management program provided by Paul.
- There needs to be a better understanding of each line item within the budget.

### **Billing**

- Brad Paiva makes a motion to increase the water rate by .50 cents per CCU for all customers. This is based on the increases from City of Fall River and City of New Bedford. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - Notice of increase will be included in the next billing along with the Consumer Confidence Report.
  - Billing for every route should be out to customers by end of July.

### **Ashland/ISP Land**

- Bob Parker will contact Fred Hannah regarding the land again.

### **New Bedford Water & Sewer**

- Bob Parker will follow up again.

## **Sign Bills**

## **Approve Minutes**

- Brad Paiva makes a motion to accept the June 15, 2017 minutes. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

## **Other Business**

- Chandler has been called for Jury Duty beginning July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Regarding the new vehicle, Keven Desmarais will contact the dealership to set up an appointment for himself and the Commissioners to view a vehicle and discuss the details.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler  
Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission