



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 12/7/2016

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker

Members present: Bob Parker; Brad Paiva; Paul Sadeck

Staff present: Keven Desmarais; Steven Chandler

Meeting being recorded by Steven Chandler and Paul Sadeck

Filter Site at South Main Street

- Keven Desmarais shut off filters.
- Passed 4th quarter testing.
- Chandler reports that Ryan Trahan reached out to Mark Reich of K.P. Law regarding project specs.
- Keven states that Mark Reich responded to Ryan's email with specific documents needed.
- Keven states that White Water let him know that the Sanitary Survey with the DEP is scheduled for next Thursday, December 15, 2017 at 9AM. Ken Dunham of White Water will be in attendance.
- John Friar from City of Fall River gave us a courtesy call, they were having a pressure issue at Amazon on Innovation Way. They wanted purge the line and see where the air was coming from so they closed off the valve inside the meter pit at Innovation Way. There were fluctuations in pressure.

Fall River Water & Sewer Agreement

- Bob Parker states that the water portion of the agreement is all set.
- Paul Sadeck states that the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission and the Board of Selectmen have signed off on the proposed agreement with Fall River.
- Terry Sullivan told Paul that they are taking it to the Fall River City Council and the Mayor for approval.

Operator Licensing

- Bob Parker asks Keven Desmarais if he is taking steps to move up in his certification level.
- Keven states that he is a D1. He has taken the Level D2 course and has to take the test.
- Paul Sadeck says that the FW&SC should pay for Keven's training.
- Brad Paiva feels that if Keven gets to the level that the representatives at White Water are, the FW&SC can pay Keven do the work that White Water does.
- Bob feels that if the bill from White Water is cut in half and the money would then go to Keven, it would benefit the Town having an in-house operator and benefit Keven. Bob asks Keven to pursue his education and training.

Rates for Sewer Customers

- The FW&SC received bills from the City of Fall River for sewer use and Chandler created an analysis of what Fall River has charged the FW&SC and what the FW&SC has charged the two sewer customers, Stop & Shop and Ashland/ISP. While the rate at which Fall River charged Freetown has increased twice in FY2016, Freetown has not increased the rate at which Stop & Shop and Ashland/ISP have been charged.
- With the new proposed rate, the FW&SC would be losing money.
- To cover the costs of operation for sewer, Brad Paiva makes a motion to charge 25% above what Fall River is charging Freetown. Bob 2nd. All in favor.

Water Line at Excel Recycling

- Keven Desmarais states that the line has not yet been installed.

New Bedford Water

- Check sent to bring accounts current.
- Bob Parker will contact N.B. water department to set up a meeting to discuss a new water and sewer contract. Chandler will send their phone number to Bob.

Invoices signed.

Billing Opportunities

- Chandler sent 21 accounts to lien for balances due from prior FY2014-FY2016.
- 17 residents are currently participating in the Payment Agreement Plan. 6 residents that were enrolled this past summer have completed their commitment and brought their account up to date.
- At a previous meeting it was decided to table action regarding two accounts, Crystal Springs and Churchill Banks.
 - Crystal Springs (CS) had a water leak and the read turned out to be unreasonably high.
 - Not realizing it, Chandler processed the read for billing which produced a bill for over \$60,297.69 and sent it out. Afterwards it was discovered and Keven did the math and the amount of water it would have taken to produce a bill of this magnitude would have filled about 20 Olympic sized swimming pools. Being impossible to have used that much water, Keven decided that CS would be charged for 500 units. He also replaced the meter and saw that the insides were malfunctioning. Brad Paiva makes a motion to charge CS for 500 units. Paul 2nd. All in favor.
 - A representative from Churchill Banks had called back in October regarding the amount of water for which they had been billed.
 - Chandler did some research and after speaking with Keven had found that prior to Chandler there were estimated readings entered as actual. The readings were done as estimates because Keven could not access the meter pit most times because a gate at the property entrance had been locked. He asked that the gate be kept open and he was able to recently get access to the pit and meter to take an actual reading. This reading was lower than what is currently in the system. The estimated readings should have been actual readings and should have been 0 for a building that has not been in used since 2012. It was decided that Chandler would add up the charges billed, deduct the quarterly fees applied during the period in question, and process a refund check.

Approve minutes

- Brad Paiva makes a motion to accept and approve the minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned

- Brad makes motion to adjourn. Bob 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7PM at Council On Aging located at 227 Chace Road, East Freetown, MA.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Steven Chandler", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Chandler
Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission