



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 12/14/2017

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

6:30PM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker; Brad Paiva; Paul Sadeck  
Staff present: Keven Desmarais  
Meeting being recorded by Paul Sadeck

Residents attending: Mr. & Mrs. José Goncalves; Howard Hawkins; Ed Mello

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2018 FEB -9 AM 9:20  
*J. Brown*

### Conversation with Mr. Hawkins

- Mr. Hawkins is refusing to let the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission (FW&SC) change out his water filter. He states that Keven Desmarais has tried to replace it in the past and was unable to do so. A plumber was called to replace the filter and customer had paid for the plumbing service.
- Mr. Hawkins states that he wants good water to start with and doesn't want to have the need for a filter. He understands that the State is "pushing you (FW&SC) to make sure everyone's water is okay."
- Bob Parker, Commission Chair, explains that the FW&SC can't control the water coming from Fall River. He states that it is Mr. Hawkins house and he can do what he chooses, he just wants to give Mr. Hawkins some information.
- Bob states the following:
  - MassDEP controls what the FW&SC has to do and if [Mr. Hawkins] doesn't allow Keven in to change the filter, he has to put that in his report to MassDEP.
  - Keven sends [MassDEP] a report and has to write that Mr. Hawkins did not allow the filter to be changed and a red flag is next to the name of the resident. MassDEP then sends a letter or email to the FW&SC asking to be contacted when the filter has been changed. If the FW&SC can't get the filter changed in 90 days the next report is submitted. They [MassDEP] ask what the issue is.
  - MassDEP can demand that the water be shut off at the residence. They can get a warrant and have a sheriff serve the resident in order for the FW&SC be allowed access to change filter. They can impose a fine on the resident and if not paid a lien is place on the property. If the fine is not paid interest accrues daily.
  - It's out of the hands of FW&SC who submits a report every 90 days to MassDEP.
  - The water from Fall River has been good and the Town of Freetown has not had to utilize the filter site.

- The FW&SC asked MassDEP about changing out filters and they said it has to be done every 90 days.
  - Keven Desmarais will have Chandler make an appointment to change filter.
- Mr. Hawkins states that a plumber did go and change out the filter earlier this year but he has not been asked since then. He feels that having filters is a “cheap fix” and he doesn’t want to go along with that because it will then become a permanent fix.
  - Paul Sadeck states that it is not a cheap fix and that Town’s water system is in compliance and Mass DEP says the Town does not have to run the filters at this time however, they still require that the houses before the filter site must have filters.
    - If the Town of Freetown remains in compliance for two years, MassDEP will allow the Town to permanently keep the filters off line. Which would save the Town \$3 million.
    - Fall River has worked hard to deliver better quality water which in turn allows Freetown to be in compliance.
  - Mr. Hawkins states that when he is asked to let the FW&SC change the filter he will consider letting them.
  - Keven Desmarais clarifies the misunderstanding about the water not being good or that the six houses are getting water that needs to be treated or that it’s tainted.
    - For over a year now the Town of Freetown has been in compliance with MassDEP regulations. You [six residences] did not need to be filtered so they have been getting an extra level of filtration.
    - Never in his career has he heard of anyone being upset because a customer is receiving filtered water.
    - Take one this from this meeting...you are receiving good, quality, compliant drinking water to your houses.
    - The FW&SC and Keven have worked hard with the hired engineers to be certain the water is good. 160,000 gallons of water per day are being moved through the lines if needed to ensure water quality is good.
    - We hope in the next year or two to prove to MassDEP that the filters are not needed and they can be removed from your homes. It would be less maintenance for the FW&SC which is always a plus.
  - Paul Sadeck explains that the filters in the individual houses is the same as the filter site. There is charcoal in it which reduces THM’s. This whole season the filters didn’t have to be turn on which means that you are getting the same water as everyone else in Town.

### **Expanding Sewer Line Connections**

- Bob Parker explains that the FW&SC has adopted the City of Fall River sewer regulations.
  - Haven’t yet received the price scheduling.
  - City of Fall River no long charges the \$1,400 fee for tie in to water so we will work to get the sewer fee tie-in waived as well.
  - Once we (FW&SC) receive sewer rates from Fall River we can determine the fee for residents and this information will be shared with the 8 residents along the sewer line.
  - Bills will be generated either separate or together with water bills, depending on what Vadar can do.

- If you have any questions, come to our meetings or ask Keven.
- Keven Desmarais explains that the City of Fall River will charge the Town of Freetown for wastewater going to Fall River.
  - A basic fee will be \$1,000 per residence to tie into the sewer.
  - Customer will pay a quarterly fee based on the amount of water used.
  - Chandler will reach out to City of Fall River for wastewater fee schedule.
  - MassDEP is not requiring the Town of Freetown to get a Wastewater ID# since wastewater is going to another town (Fall River) to be processed.
  - Residents can hire their own contractor to install sewer connection as long as the contractor has insurance, bond, and work is inspected per regulations.
  - Will have Chandler create permits and submit to Board for approval.

### **MassDEP ACO**

- Keven Desmarais states that the ACO has been signed by the Water Commissioners and Board of Selectmen (BOS) and delivered to MassDEP office in Lakeville, MA. A copy has gone to the BOS office and one is retained in the FW&SC office.

### **Land at Ashland/ISP**

- Paul Sadeck reads aloud a letter from Town Council regarding the acceptance and steps to acquire the gift of land from Ashland/ISP.

### **South Main Street Water and Filtration Site**

- Keven Desmarais will take action to disconnect filters as outlined by MassDEP.

### **Water Line Extension**

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion that if the Town of Freetown chooses to extend a 12" water line from Braley Road to the proposed future site of the new Police Headquarters, Senior Center, current Police Headquarters, Elementary School, and any other municipal building, it shall be done on Chace Road; it is the shortest distance from Braley. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Churchill & Banks**

- [Planning Board] has received the application and Form L and the FW&SC should make a comment to the Planning Board.
- Keven Desmarais states a possible response.
- Bob Parker will reach out to John Friar at the City of Fall River regarding increasing water supplied to Assonet to meet the needs of Churchill & Banks.

### **Upcoming Budget**

- Bob Parker FY2017 to Paul Sadeck for review and make adjustments.

**Innovation Way Leak**

- Waiting for David DeManche to get back to Commission.

**Update System Fee Schedule**

- To receive fee information from Fall River.

**GPS Location Equipment**

- Keven Desmarais plans to begin learning system before end of January.

Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve minutes from 12.8.17 meeting. Brad Paiva 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler  
Senior Clerk  
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission