



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 2/19/2020

Meeting held at Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, East Freetown, MA

11:15AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck; Brad Paiva
Staff present: Steven Chandler; Keven Desmarais

Meeting being recorded by Chandler and Paul Sadeck

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2020 OCT 26 PM 1:19
g Brown

Open Session

ACO with MassDEP

- Jim McLaughlin from MassDEP sent an email notifying the FW&SC that the Administrative Consent Order (ACO) can be closed out because Freetown finished 2019 without exceeding a THM LRAA (high THM levels). A letter should be written to Jim describing Freetown's efforts to comply with the ACO and request a close-out letter from DEP.
 - Have the licensed operators, WhiteWater, draft a letter to release FW&SC from the MassDEP ACO.
- Jim McLaughlin, in his email, also recommends that "Freetown go ahead and build [a] treatment plant without a DEP order because it's the prudent thing to do."
 - Per the agreement between MassDEP and FW&SC a treatment plant is not required if compliance to ACO is satisfactory.
 - Paul Sadeck makes a motion to send a letter to the Freetown Board of Selectmen stating that [FW&SC] is in the process of responding to a recent email from DEP regarding closing out the ACO. Attached to the letter will be the email from Jim McLaughlin. Also in the letter to the BOS will be stated that WhiteWater is composing the letter (mentioned above) to be reviewed and signed by the Commissioners and the letter will be sent to MassDEP ASAP.
 - This will notify the BOS of the actions regarding the ACO by the FW&SC and the recommendation by Jim McLaughlin.
 - Brad Paiva 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - In Jim's letter he mentioned the RTCR Sampling Plan which needs updating by Charles Kennedy. Jim has directed Charles to work with Freetown to complete the Plan.

- Keven Desmarais explains what the Sampling Plan is and the history of the plan being sent to MassDEP.

Water Rate Study

- The contract was signed by two of the three Board of Selectmen on January 6, 2020. George Grunwald left the meeting before the contract was presented for review and signatures. David DeManche, Town Administrator, signed. Commissioners signed.
- Chandler sent electronic signed copy to Helen Gordon at Environmental Partners (EP) via email and let her know the signed paper copy was sent by post.
- Chandler has been working with Helen and Maria at EP to ensure they have all of the information needed to conduct the Water Rate Study. A draft of the Study should be finalized in March.

Meter Replacement

- Discussion of a customer who shows unusually high usage of 22 units for the 3rd quarter.
 - A new meter head was installed to replace the defective head as part of the series of meters that MasterMeter recognized as defective.
 - Keven Desmarais will install a brand new meter with head when the new ones that Chandler ordered arrive. Chandler will contact MasterMeter to get a replacement for the one that appears defective, or not reading correctly. It could be that it is a head programmed to be used with a 3/4" meter even though it arrive identified as a 5/8" head.
 - If the next reading goes back down to the customers average past usage of 6 to 16 units it will be determined that the replaced head is in fact defective or programmed incorrectly and the customer will qualify for an abatement.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

- During our January 6th meeting, it was decided that 5 line item categories should be consolidated into one line item. Moving forward the following account numbers should be moved to an account titled "Building Equipment Repair Maintenance"...
 - 620.4.450.5240.9005.40.00 . repair & maintenance bldg & grounds
 - 620.4.450.5240.9006.40.00 . repair & maintenance equipment
 - 620.4.450.5240.9008.40.00 . repair & maintenance infrastructure
 - 620.4.450.5270.9000.40.00 . rental/leases
 - 620.4.450.5430.9000.40.00 . bldg. & equip rep & maint supplies
- The Commission also voted to separate the Purchased Water line item into two...one for City of Fall River and one for City of New Bedford, giving each its own account number. This would allow the FW&SC and Accounting to track each separately.
 - Chandler had contacted Kim Fales, Town Accountant, about this and she has created the two separate account numbers.
- Paul finalized the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021 and Chandler will give a copy to Kim.
- Chandler created a Warrant Article for the June 1, 2020 Special Town Meeting. The Article is for three bills for two accounts not paid during FY2019 to the City of Fall River

totaling \$28,371.34. The bills will be funded from the certified retained earnings of the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Land at Ashland

- Brad Paiva asks what the status is on the parcel of land at Ashland that was donated to Freetown.
 - Discussion of the initial 21E report drafted by Penney Engineering which, due to irreconcilable differences, was never completed.
 - Bob Parker states that the 21E report initially needed to develop the land for use is no longer needed, as stated by Town Council who said that what he saw on the initial draft report was fine.
 - Bob will contact Eric Morin at Ashland and let him know that the Penney Engineering report is not needed and what needs to be done to move forward to attain the land permanently.

Fire Hydrants . East Freetown

- Bob Parker states that there are (3) fire hydrants aren't working.
- Keven Desmarais says we do not have (3) hydrants that are not working and clarifies the issue with hydrants.
 - There was a fire on County Road and Keven said he heard the call on the scanner from Lakeville fire fighters to Freetown stating that (3) hydrants don't work. He went to the site to see what they were talking about and why the hydrants don't work. That's when he was told what happened...
 - Freetown Fire fighters were on a hydrant in front of the fire station and it was working beautifully.
 - Two volunteer fire fighters from Lakeville arrived and when they turned on a hydrant across the street from site of fire [in front of Bindery] they tried turned it on to open it they did so in the opposite direction, (probably due to not knowing that all hydrants turn on in the direction of the arrow, to the right, embossed on hydrant), and snapped the stem. They get to the next hydrant and can't turn it on. They go to a third hydrant that is on the New Bedford system and they snapped that one also.
 - Keven called New Bedford and theirs is fixed. He called Highway Dept. to go out to the one that wouldn't turn on [but not snapped] and that one is fine. Keven is getting a repair kit to have a company go repair the one across the street from site of fire.
 - Keven states we've never had an issue with a hydrant in this town. Never. Never a broken one [from misuse], never one that water didn't come out, never had an issue.
 - There is one hydrant that is broken. He told spoke to Brad about the issue and told him he would bring it up at today's meeting.
- Bob wants Keven to notify the Commissioners when something like this comes up.

- Paul Sadeck states that people in town saw the complaint of hydrants not working on Facebook or heard it on a scanner.

Annual Town Report

- Chandler had sent a draft of the FY2019 FW&SC Report to the Commissioners and would like them to sign off on it today.
- Brad Paiva makes a motion to approve letter Report for Annual Town Report. Paul Sadeck 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

- Payroll and bills reviewed and signed.

Minutes

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve minutes from 1.6.20 meeting. Brad Paiva 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

- Decided not to go into executive session at this time. Still have not been contacted by the City of Fall River and will gather more information needed and discuss at a later date.

Brad Paiva makes motion to adjourn at 11:59AM. Paul Sadeck 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler
Senior Clerk
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission