

# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

3 North Main Street, P.O. Box 438, Assonet, MA 02702 508-644-2201 Ext. 5 Fax: 508-644-2053

#### Minutes of meeting held on 04/06/2023.

FREETOWN TOWN
2023 APR 25 PM

- Meeting called to order at 9:03AM By Chairman Parker
- Present were
  - · Robert S. Parker, Commissioner, Chairman
  - Mark S. Rosofsky, Commissioner
  - · Paul G. Sadeck, Commissioner
  - David Thibodeau
- New Commissioner Mark S. Rosofsky was welcomed to the Commission after being elected at the April 3, 2023, town election and subsequent sworn in by the Town Clerk.
- The Consensus of the new Commission was to leave the composition of the Commission as is. Thus, Robert S. Parker will remain as the Chairman.

## • Discuss Independence Harbor.

- · Reference prior meetings, water usage had been estimated for several years due to a broken meter.
- When this was made known to the Commission a new meter was installed.
- Unfortunately, on 5/27/2022, Independence Harbor was billed \$11,607.24 incorrectly. This bill was paid and appealed to the Commission.
- A meeting was held with the owner of Independence Harbor and on 7/22/22 the Commission voted to refund \$9,250.89 leaving a paid balance of \$2,356.35.
- Independence Harbor is requesting a full refund of the paid balance.
- Independence Harbor owner has been informed that the Commission will revisit the billing for the period 2015 through 2022 when usage data, over a 12-month period, from the date the new meter was installed
- The Commission voted to send a letter to Independence Harbor to memorialize our decision.

#### • Water Infrastructure

- As we progress with the meter project, we have found numerous curbs stops, valves, etc. in need of repair. Corrective action usually requires replacement. That entails excavation.
- The commission discussed using available ARPA funding to secure a small excavator that would handle the necessary repair. The purchase of an excavator using ARPA funds would certainly save the Commission money to make such repairs.
- The Commission voted to apply for ARPA funds for an excavator.

## Senior work off program

- The Commission requested a senior work off applicant to work during good weather to wire brush and paint the hydrants throughout town. We have approximately 150 hydrants.
- The Commission could also utilize an applicant that could scan documents to eliminate most of our paper files.

## Vadar License (Water Department Computer License)

• The Commission voted to purchase the license for the remainder of this fiscal year and FY2024.

#### FY 2024 Budget

The budget was submitted timely and has been revised three times since the original submission.

# OF FREETOWAY LANGES

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- Changes were made as new and more reliable data was received.
- Water & Sewer Rates, and Permit fees
  - · This was held for the next meeting.
- Equipment
  - Equipment is being purchased as needed.
  - The portable generator and compressor in the work truck still needs to be mounted.
  - We are in the process of engineering a lift for the work truck.
- Meter replacement project
  - The project is moving forward.
  - All new meters should be installed by the end of June 2023
  - Neptune 360 software is in the process of interfacing with our Vadar billing system.
- Chipaway Pump Station Generator
  - Bids were open and awarded to Mitchells.
  - The Highway Department poured the concrete pads for the generator and fuel tanks.
  - A metal stand is being fabricated to keep the generator 3 feet off the ground.
  - Installation and wiring of the generator should be completed by the end of June.
  - •
- Hydrant replacement
  - There are 5 hydrants scheduled for replacement.
  - The Commission voted not to replace the missing hydrant on Braley Road because 2 new hydrants
    were just put in. The hydrants were installed during Railroad work and are within 100 feet of the
    missing hydrant.
  - A steel plate will be placed over the opening of the missing hydrant.
- · Permanent Bleeders.
  - Three new bleeder pits are being constructed.
  - They should be completed in mid-April 2023
  - They will have 1" meters, with registers reading in gallons for ease of adjusting the bleed rate.
  - Bleeder #4 will be above ground at the Pleasant and N. Main Street intersection.
- · All minutes on the agenda were approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.