



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

3 North Main Street . P.O. Box 438 . Assonet, MA 02702
508.644.4000 . Fax: 508.644.2053

Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 6.7.22

Meeting held at Town Hall, Assonet, MA

9:20AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck
Staff present: Steven Chandler; David Thibodeau
Member not present: Keven Desmarais

Meeting being audio recorded by Paul Sadeck

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Independence Harbor

- Brian Dunning sent an email regarding his bill. Commissioners will set up a meeting with Brian to discuss. Paul Sadeck agrees.
 - Bob Parker will speak with Keven Desmarais and see if he's available to meet one day after week.
 - Paul suggests Chandler respond to Mr. Dunning letting him know the Commissioners are working on the next meeting and would like him to attend.
- Actual reads are needed but the issue is going into a pit in a confined space. Brian Dunning has offered to get the reads himself until the meter can be changed. David Thibodeau will work with Brian to get reads.

Infrastructure Maintenance

- Paul Sadeck stated the Board of Selectmen have approved the allocation of ARPA funding to the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission for infrastructure needed.
 - Next step... Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, will contact the State and send the plan for use. Once that is approved the project will go out to bid.
 - Chandler has given a list of how many meter connections and sizes of meters to the Commissioners which Deb will use in the invitation to bid documents. Part of the project is to switch from MasterMeter to Neptune meters. The Commission will reach out to Neptune for the specs on all of the meters and accompanying equipment associated with the project.
 - The Commissioners would like to have all the same size meters within the system when possible.
 - Chandler said that one customer has stated he refuses to allow a meter smaller than 1 1/2" be installed in his residence.
 - Paul Sadeck makes a motion that if a residential customer insists on having a larger meter size other than what the Freetown Water & Sewer Commission (FW&SC) is installing,

they will pay the difference in price between the meter they would receive free of charge and the larger meter. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bleeders . Permanent Installation

- The Board of Selectmen signed the contract for the permanent bleeder pits at their meeting last night. Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, will notify installer, Jim Rezendes, to let him know its ready to go.
- The 1" MasterMeter meters came in and are ready to be installed in pits when the time comes. Bob Parker states that backflow devices do not need to be installed and check valves can be used instead.
- The number of bleeders is being reduced from five to four.
- It is stated that Jim Rezendes has three meters for the three permanent bleeders.
- Paul suggests return the (2) MasterMeter meters because Neptune will be used in the future.

MasterMeter

- Chandler will return the (2) 1" meters to MasterMeter.
- Discussion of how many radio meters have been estimated due to them no longer sending a signal. This is aside from the Allegro meters which are not compatible with the current read equipment, of which there are three of four currently.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to call the customer at least twice so that David Thibodeau can get in and get an actual read. If the customer refuses to let him in their next read will be doubled for each billing period. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Paul says we won't run into this issue because we haven't yet.
- Paul suggests since the new plan is to install Neptune product, the FW&SC not move forward with the plan to use MasterMeter Allegro meters or purchase the equipment needed to read them.
 - Chandler states that Chris Stebbins from Ferguson Waterworks is looking into the outstanding items from MasterMeter since Jonathan Velez has left MasterMeter and there is no rep to replace him at this time. He states that no one from MasterMeter has reached out yet and it's been weeks.
 - Bob Parker says to let Chris know the Commissioners want to put things on hold.
 - Paul Sadeck suggests returning all Allegro meters in stock that had been purchased prior.

Hydrant Meters

- The current hydrant meter does not work. A hydrant meter(s) is needed for flushing twice a year and tracking how much water is being used to flush for the Annual Statistical Report for MassDEP.
- David Thibodeau contacted Paul Ferland of Fall River regarding bleeding/flushing and Paul said they can revisit the Inter-municipal Agreement if needed.
 - David suggests setting up a meeting with Paul Ferland to discuss.
 - Keven Desmarais suggested David ask Paul Ferland if Freetown can borrow a flushing meter until one is purchased and when David met with Paul, he seemed reluctant because Fall River uses that equipment for something specific and it is not hydrant flushing. When Chandler spoke with Paul, he seemed amenable to the idea.
 - David will connect with Brian Jacob of Fall River tomorrow to discuss flushing.

- The current meter that the FW&SC used for flushing is no long working.
- Bob Parker feels the FW&SC should have (2) hydrant meters.

Excel

- WhiteWater has notified the FW&SC that the backflow device at the Excel site is in a pit and should be above ground.
- Excel has not yet been notified
- In May Chandler emailed facility manager, David, to request they let us know when the (3) hydrant meters will be installed so that David Thibodeau can be there to inspect the install and sign off on it. They have not yet gotten back to Chandler. Chandler also asked to have spec sheets sent over and David did that. The hydrant meters have been installed.
- David Thibodeau will meet with David at Excel and while he's there he will David know that Excel requires meter to come out of pit. And, that they suggested the FW&SC shut off water until the meter is moved above ground.

Billing

- Chandler states we have billing coming up in July which will be conducted as usual.
- David will reach out to any customers that have a meter he is unable to get a read from. This will allow him to get as many actual reads as possible this quarter.

Infrastructure Maps/Plans

- Chandler gives update on the process of digitizing the maps and plans at Morgan Records Management. They sent a test sample a little while ago but Chandler has not heard where they are in the process since that time.
- One of the test maps is so clear and the clarity remains when enlarged on the computer. Maps are PDF's and not searchable. Chandler will set up a filing system on the computer which will have a folder for maps/plans from East Freetown and one for Assonet.

WhiteWater

- The technician was looking for an asbestos sample taken in the past but neither Keven nor Chandler recall any such sample being done.
- Bob Parker states that there are no concrete and asbestos pipes so no need to worry about it.
- Paul Sadeck suggests the Commissioners meet with WhiteWater to understand exactly what they do, what services they provide, and what the FW&SC is paying for. Can also talk about the Excel set up.
- Chandler will set up a meeting with Kurt Lavertue, Technician, and John Aprea, Southeast Manager of WhiteWater.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved for 4.20.22; 4.27.22; and 5.17.22

Sign Bills

- Bob Parker and Paul Sadeck signed bills.

Other business that properly came before the Board that was not anticipated:

Tools and Supplies Needed

- Commissioners would like to purchase tools and equipment before the end of the fiscal year.
 - Chandler said the Home Depot card had expired.
 - Bob Parker wants to see if the Town has an account at Lowe's.
 - Chandler needs a new office chair because his is broken.

MBTA . Southcoast Rail Project

- The contractor, Middlesex Corp, needs to dig up Braley Road near the railroad crossing and they discovered the water line zig-zags through that area.
- MBTA will pay to straighten the water line and to do that they need to install a temporary line above ground.
 - To do this they need to install a temporary 12" insertion valve at each end. The valves they ordered have a max 150psi but the FW&SC rules and regulations call for a 175psi. Middlesex is asking for leniency for this.
 - Keven Desmarais had told Chandler that the requirement was based on the rules and regs from Fall River, and the FW&SC adopted it at the time. He also said that since the water flow and pressure on Braley Road is not high, it is safe to use the 150psi valves. Since this project is in East Freetown the Fall River rules and regs guidelines do not apply because pressure from New Bedford is lower than Fall River.
 - MBTA also purchased valves that turn on/off opposite of FW&SC rules and regs. Chandler said they are different throughout the Freetown system so it's not an issue.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to give Middlesex Corp and MBTA a waiver to use the 150psi instead of 175psi valves with a reverse opening.

Paul Sadeck motion to adjourn at 11:31AM. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler
Senior Clerk
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission