



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 10.31.22

Meeting held at Town Hall, Assonet, MA

9:00AM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker; Paul Sadeck
Member not present: Keven Desmarais
Staff present: Steven Chandler; David Thibodeau

Meeting being audio recorded by Paul Sadeck

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FREETOWN CLERK
2022 DEC - 8 PM 2:35

Meter Replacement Project

- Board of Selectmen have approved the awarded bid at their last meeting.
- Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, would like to meet with the FW&SC. The project needs an additional \$10,368.99 above the ARPA funds secured for the project in order to keep it moving forward. Funds can come out of the FW&SC FY2023 budget. Deb will contact the folks at ARPA and ask if it can be reimbursed at a later date.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to transfer \$10,368.99 from the Replacement Equipment line item of the FY23 budget to the meter replacement project funding. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Chandler will draft a letter to Deb Pettey acknowledging the need for the additional funding.

Vadar Quote . Neptune Interface

- We received a quote for the interface of Neptune with Vadar Systems. The quote consists of a required interface portion and two additional optional portions to choose from. Commissioners will determine the level of need after speaking with Neptune representatives.

Permanent Bleeder Project

- Deb Pettey had to extend the contract because the project has not been started yet and the contract ends on 10.31.22. Project contractor Jim Rezendes said the delay is due to lack of staff, but he will get it done by the end of the year. Deb extended the contract to 12.31.22.

Water Bills from New Bedford

- New Bedford claims they applied payments correctly. Paul Sadeck will go through all of the billing and payments listed on Freetown's payment documents from Town Accountant and New Bedford's payment history document from billing department.

Excel Recycling Water Meter & Backflow Device Replacement

- Paul Sadeck spoke with the owner of Excel who told him the plans were created and the project should be completed by end of October. He will reach out to Marty Costa again.

Chipaway Pump Station . Generator and Leak

- Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, has all of the information needed for generator project and will send out call for bids soon.
- Propane is needed to operate the generator and Commissioners are researching propane companies and will get back to Deb. Two concrete pads will be needed, one for generator and one for propane tank.
- There is a small leak at one of the pumps. David Thibodeau is meeting rep from True North when they calibrate sewer meter and ask him about the pump station leak.
 - The work authorization form for the sewer meter calibration has been signed previous to this meeting so the project could be scheduled and move forward because it is urgent. Paul Sadeck is making a motion to authorize the payment in amount of \$2,019.00 as quoted for the recalibration that is being done tomorrow. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

FY2023 3rd Quarter Billing

- This pertains to FY2023 2nd quarter not 3rd quarter billing as Chandler inadvertantly listed on meeting agenda.
- David Thibodeau has been steadily getting reads; Chandler processing bills.

Hydrant Repair and Replacement

- Jim Rezendes sent the quote for the hydrant repair on Ridge Hill Road and is waiting for approval. Paul Sadeck makes a motion to authorize JRD to do replacement of the hydrant based on the quote submitted. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.
- David Thibodeau will let Jim Rezendes know he can move ahead on Ridge Hill Road hydrant repair. He will ask Jim Rezendes to send a quote for the repair/replacement of other hydrants.

Outstanding Balances from FY2022

- Chandler has received payments for 15 or the 56 accounts as a result of the first letter sent to customer with outstanding FY2022 balances. He sent a second letter on October 4th and has received payments for 9 of the 41 remaining accounts as of today's date. A third will go out on November 4th for those who have not submitted payment by then.

Current [Active] Bleeders

- David Thibodeau will shut them down in November.

Neon Gas Station

- Paul Sadeck spoke with Tom Tighe of City of Fall River who agreed to handle all billing for Neon as well as any other businesses that may open in the future within the Freetown layout at Innovation Way Science Park. This is based on the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Independence Harbor

- Brian Dunning as received a refund for the amount over billed, and an abatement for water used at the end of FY22 and charged at the FY23 rate. The Commissioners do not agree that he should pay nothing prior to the meter being replaced when bills were estimated.
- Reads had been estimated since 5.27.15 because the meter is in a pit and stopped working and Keven Desmarais does not have confined space training. Meter was replaced on 8.22.22.
- Paul Sadeck calculated the esimated usage of 108 units each quarter and the refund was also based on the cost for water each year at the rate of that particular year. The amount of refund was \$9,209.55 and Brian wanted the entire bill of \$11,607.24 refunded.
- The estimated usage for the July 2022 read was recalculated based on 79 units which is based on the actual read from the day the new meter was installed to 10.18.22. It was calculated by days and the rate per unit each of those days. Brian was given an additional abatement in the amount of \$227.19.
- Deb will look into what Brian is looking for and billing guidelines.

Equipment Needed

- David Thibodeau presented a list of items needed to Commissioners.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve purchasing items. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Abatements

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve the abatements which include \$9,209.55 and \$41.34 for Independence Harbor refund because Chandler processed the refund but did not know he needed to enter an abatement to justify the refund; \$227.19 for Independence Harbor current bill; \$8.90 for Freetown Fire Department. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sign Bills

- Bob Parker and Paul Sadeck signed bills.

Paul Sadeck motion to adjourn at 10:36AM. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler, Senior Clerk
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission