



WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 12.8.22

Meeting held at Town Hall, Assonet, MA

1:00PM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker
Members present: Bob Parker, Chairman; Paul Sadeck
Member not present: Keven Desmarais
Staff present: Steven Chandler
Staff not present: David Thibodeau
Guest: Deb Pettey, Town Administrator

Meeting being audio recorded by Paul Sadeck and Chandler

New Bedford Infrastructure

- Discussion of history of water line infrastructure within East Freetown going back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There are documents from 1913, 1914, and 1917 showing the agreements between Freetown and New Bedford granting New Bedford access to take water from a natural water source located in Freetown.
- Many decades ago, a member of the New Bedford Water who lived in East Freetown was instrumental in having a water line brought to his residence. Since then, dozens of homes and businesses have connected the New Bedford's water line.
- New Bedford knowingly has lead service lines but the FW&SC is unaware of a plan to replace these lines in East Freetown. There are 110 New Bedford water customers who live in East Freetown on Middleboro Road and County Road and it is not known how many of these customers have lead service lines.
- Over the years, representatives from New Bedford Water District have stated they will not replace their lead water lines located in East Freetown.

Independence Harbor

- Commission had a discussion of with Deb Pettey, Interim Town administrator.
- Brian Dunning as received a refund for the amount over billed, and an abatement for water used at the end of FY22 but 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. Independence Harbor did use water and Commission feels Brian was fairly billed for this water.
- Commissioners are going to revisit this after the January billing. They will see what the usage is for the three quarters in FY2023 and compare that with what he was billed prior to the meter being changed.

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Meter Replacement Project

- Chandler emailed Steve Vaccaro at Baystate Winsupply yesterday asking for an update on the project and is waiting to hear back.
- Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, has sent Steve Vaccaro a federal government Anti-Byrd Clause to be included in the contract. Deb typed it up, sent it to Steve (twice), and has not yet heard back. The contract cannot be signed on Deb's end until this clause is added. The clause states that Baystate Winsupply will not use the government funding (ARPA) to lobby the government in any way. Once Deb receives this back from Steve she can issue a notice to proceed with the project.
- Chandler will call Steve and check on the status of the clause.
- Chandler posted a notice of water meter replacement on the Freetown website.

Excel Recycling Water Meter & Backflow Device Replacement

- Paul Sadeck followed up with Marty Costa who said they are working on getting a contractor to move the meter and backflow device inside the building.

Chipaway Pump Station . Generator and Leak

- Commissioners have spoken with Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, regarding generator and will get final approval soon. WhiteWater will do leak repair on December 13th.

Hydrant Repair and Replacement

- Jim Rezendes sent the quotes for the hydrant repair at 11 Cliff Drive and 39 Water Street at \$7,300 each and is waiting for approval.
- FW&SC has received payment in the amount of \$5,500 for the insurance claim for hydrant damaged in East Freetown last year. This money will be used towards the new hydrants.
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to authorize JRD to repair/replace the two hydrants based on the quotes submitted. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Permanent Bleeder Project

- Jim Rezendes said he will have them installed before the ground freezes.
- Deb Pettey will include discussion to extend the contract on the Board of Selectmen meeting agenda for January 3, 2023.

Paul Sadeck makes a motion to take a recess at 1:22pm. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bob Parker called meeting to order after recess at 1:30pm.

Meter Size Pricing

- Meters being installed in the coming months will not cost customers if a regular installation is needed. Should the installer have to correct or repair meter set up inside a residence or business, the property owner is responsible for repairs or changes.
- Quarterly Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (QIMF) is charged to cover the cost of replacing meters in the future when needed and for the cost of creating, processing, and mailing bills each quarter.

- The new QIMF rates will be as follows:
 - 5/8" and 3/4" meters . \$15 per quarter
 - 1" meter . \$20 per quarter
 - 1 1/2" meter . \$30 per quarter
 - 2" meter . \$40 per quarter
- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to adopt these new quarterly rates. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Current [Active] Bleeders

- David Thibodeau removed bleeders from hydrants on 11.17.22.

Outstanding Balances from FY2022

- Chandler reports that of the original 56 accounts with past due FY22 balances, there are 14 accounts remaining as of today's date. The Assistant Assessor is waiting for the new tax rate and once he receive's it, the Treasure will receive the list of accounts not paid.

Equipment Needed

- David Thibodeau not present to give report. He is at a training session.

Approve Minutes

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve minutes from 10.13.22; 10.31.22; 11.7.22. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Abatements

- A new account created but not connected yet and not put on hold. They were charged the \$15.00 quarterly fee. Chandler processed two bills before he received the read and he had to recreate them. The third one is an abatement based on recalculation of usage for a customer by Commissioners. Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve the abatements. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sign Bills

- Bob Parker and Paul Sadeck signed bills.

Vadar Contract to Interface with Neptune360

- Paul Sadeck makes a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$5,425 with the money coming out of APRA funding. Bob Parker 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Chandler, Senior Clerk
Freetown Water & Sewer Commission