



# WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

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## Minutes of the Water & Sewer Commission meeting 7.20.23

Meeting held at Town Hall, Assonet, MA

12:00PM Meeting called to order by Bob Parker  
Members present: Bob Parker, Chairman; Paul Sadeck, recording meeting;  
Mark Rosofsky  
Staff present: Steven Chandler, recording; David Thibodeau

### Misuse of Hydrants and Town Water Supply

- Glen Hogan of Unlimited Powerwashing came in and Commissioners reviewed policy for purchasing water using fire hydrant.
  - Taking water is against regulations. Using a hydrant without a backflow device can compromise the entire system.
  - Discussion of fines to those who take water without authorization.
  - Mr. Hogan states the well he had installed is not working so he purchased his own meter, talked to David and sent him pictures. The meter has been zeroed out and David is fine with it; he has seen it. The meter has a backflow device and shut offs, it has everything. They do not use it very often.
  - Each time Mr. Hogan purchases water he needs to call David or the office. If the office is closed he is to leave a message. David will get a read from the meter every month.
  - Mr. Hogan is thinking of installing a water line and meter to building. Bob Parker said John Mello, Mr. Hogan father-in-law, was going to suggest he do that. Chandler gave Mr. Hogan a water line permit packet and will email it along with instruction to him as well. He paid the \$300 fine today at the Tax Collector's office.
  - David came into the meeting after Mr. Hogan left. He was asked about the hydrant meter and he said Mr. Hogan sent him a photo of the meter and said he will get a backflow device. The picture that David showed a regular house meter, without a backflow device, not set up for a hydrant.
  - The Commissioners called Mr. Hogan and asked that he bring the meter in so they can see it. Mr. Hogan said okay, he has to find out which truck it's on and he will bring it by. He never brought it in.

### Service at 63 South Main Street

- The owner may want to install separate meters for each of the seven units in the plaza.
  - Commissioners state that each meter will be treated as a new customer which includes the permit fee for each commercial install. Chandler will send the information to the customer.

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### **Environmental Partners 1:00PM**

- Meeting via Microsoft Team. Discussed the new bleeder pits that have been installed and there operation.
- EP will contact David Thibodeau to set up time to meet and inspect bleeders and make any recommendation(s) to the commission.

### **Equipment**

- David Thibodeau has no major equipment needs at the moment, just smaller items.

### **Chipaway Pump Station. Generator**

- Electrician is there today to install the new switch. Propane Plus will deliver propane when work is completed. Mitchell will do the testing of the generator once all the mechanical aspects are completed.

### **New Service Connections**

- Chandler states we have three new service connections in process. Waiting to receive permit fees and contractors to decide install dates.

### **Executive Session**

- Commissioners did not go into Executive Session. Reschedule for a future meeting.

### **Sign Bills**

- Paul Sadeck and Mark Rosofsky signed bills.

### **Approve Minutes**

- One needs to be corrected and 7.10.2 not completed by this meeting. Will approve next time.

*Business that came before the Board not reasonably anticipated:*

### **Update on Meter Replacement Project**

- David Thibodeau gives report on meters that still need to be installed.
  - He is working on replacing meters.
  - Steve Vacarro, Baystate Winsupply, was supposed to change out 2” meters at Crystal Springs today but won’t be able to do it today. He is shooting for next Thursday.
  - Any new meters that have been installed by David or meters that David had to fix due to incorrect install by Baystate Winsupply will be excluded from future payments to Baystate Winsupply.
  - Paul Sadeck wants copies of all new installation forms from David.
- Chandler asks for extension of due date for next billing cycle. We have not billed since January and this may help customers who struggle to pay a bill with usage for 6 months. Chandler will add message the next bill only that we are extending due date from 30-45 days.

### **43 Mason Road**

- Usage was not billed for the past few years due to incorrect information on our end and Chandler asked Paul Sadeck to calculate customer usage based on the rate at the time of each fiscal year so the customer can have an accurate bill for the real estate closing next week.

Mark Rosofsky makes a motion to adjourn at 2:36PM. Paul Sadeck 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

Steven Chandler, Senior Clerk, Freetown Water & Sewer Commission