



## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2024

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.  
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon, Steve Ivas and Water Superintendent Jason Federico  
Kathy Davenport & Becky Allen

Prepared by: Donna Snow

### **Meeting Minutes:**

FSO motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 3/7/24; SI seconded, all in favor at 5:20pm.

### **Water Main Break on Brantwood Road:**

JF briefly discussed today's repairs from a water main break on Brantwood Road. JF noted this water main has had multiple repairs done in the past.

### **Tiffany Road:**

No one was present from Tiffany Road this afternoon. DS noted the meter reader did speak with a resident this week and JF has also spoken with this resident in the past.

### **251 Main Street Resident:**

Ms. Davenport was present; she is the daughter of the homeowner at 251 Main Street; she wanted to understand what occurred recently with the water main break on Main Street. JF noted that on Friday afternoon March 8th a leak was reported. JF advised that staff was on site the following Monday; March 11<sup>th</sup> to make repairs. A repair was made to the water main @ 252 Main Street near Mr. Brannigan's home. JF advised that when repairs were finished water was still running. JF advised there was a service running through the Ekstrom's property, when this abandoned service was shut down the homes off Bowker still had water. The water line on the Ekstrom property is a friendly easement not an official easement. This service had provided water to the Millers in the past but at some point, it was believed to have been shut off. JF noted it is now off and it will remain off. FSO asked if the line was terminated at the Main and JF replied that the line wasn't terminated at the main until now. Ms. Davenport shared that her mother's basement had water since Christmas time and a neighbor also had water in his home and had service master out to assist. Ms. Davenport mentioned that all the homes around Christmas time had lost power from a transformer that went. Ms. Ekstrom advised the Board the sump pump burned out from so much use. For three months the resident had to vacuum water, but it would come right back in. The garage door was kept open, and the driveway was constantly ice from the water. The resident did acknowledge that the Town did some tree work last summer and trucks did park on the property. Ms. Davenport stated once the repair was made on March 11<sup>th</sup> the basement has remained dry since. Ms. Davenport asked if she could be compensated in some way for

heat, electricity, and the sump pump? The Board asked if Ms. Davenport could give an itemization for damage incurred and if the expenses were reasonable, they would be willing to help. JF shared his contact information so Ms. Davenport could follow up with him directly.

**Advisory Board Meeting 3/12:**

The Advisory Board voted unanimously during the meeting. FSO explained they will borrow less and use some surplus revenue. It was decided that 100k of free cash will be used for engineering and then additional borrowing is needed in the spring/summer for the rest of the project.

**GAC Filters Update:**

JF noted media will be installed in the filters soon and testing will follow. JF advised his goal is to be online before peak season. JF confirmed that Well #1 is offline other than for testing purposes and used sparingly. JF will write something and provide the update to the office for posting. JF informed the Board they will be online by May 2024.

**Rate Changes:**

FSO asked for an analysis of how much revenue comes from each block. JF noted this will be decided at the next meeting. JF noted the Board will vote prior to a notice going out to residents. FSO would like the rate change to focus on the higher tier.


**High Street Fire Service Charge:**

JF asked for clarification on fire service charges; the Board agreed that Fire Services 2" or greater are commercial.

**Unanticipated Items:**

- JF asked do you allow commercial units to have irrigation? PD noted if they have a separate meter, and are billed at a residential rate, not commercial.
- SRF for Washington Street for PFAS next summer: 250k for filters only not for installation.
- JF informed the Board that Glenn Ferguson has returned and will prepare the area for former Superintendent Jack McInnis's memorial.
- Well #9 is producing 35 gals a minute but it was getting overburdened water.
- MWRA agreement with other communities, right now Abington, Rockland, Hanover, Norwell, Cohasset, Hingham, and Scituate are in the group.
- JF asked should the department look at Well #11 for a ten-year projection to consider a treatment plant. PD noted we should collaborate with Hanover for a joint treatment plant to share resources across the two towns.

FSO made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 PM, seconded by SI.

Accepted:  Date: 4/4/2024