



## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 4, 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 and Assistant Water Superintendent Howard Tufts

Prepared by: Donna Snow

### **Meeting Minutes:**

SI motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 11/29/23; FSO seconded and all in favor at 4:36pm.

### **Reimbursement for Tire Damage:**

A resident contacted Norwell Highway in November and subsequently reached out to Norwell Water requesting reimbursement for a damaged tire. The tire was damaged due to road excavation from a water main break near 272 High Street. The damage to the tire totals \$203.61. FSO voted to approve, SI seconded; and all in favor at 4:41pm.

### **Electrical Reimbursement:**

The resident at 272 High Street delivered to the office an invoice from John Lunn Electrical. The residents' electrical service was damaged during a repair to the water main and resulted in repairs totaling \$408.00. FSO voted to approve the invoice, SI seconded; all in favor at 4:42pm.

### **Discuss BOWC schedule:**

The Board reviewed the FY24 schedule for Water Commissioner meetings. FSO noted we have a long tradition of meeting on Thursdays. PD stated that the schedule is subject to change therefore suggested that we do not submit a list of meeting dates to the Town Clerk for the upcoming year. JF suggested the Cushing Center or library could be used for future meetings.

### **GIS and GPS Update:**

JF advised that Shane Gokey bought a GPS unit, Norwell Water is providing a tablet and cell service for it. Both departments will collaborate to collect as much data as possible for catch basins/manholes and build out hydrants and services as well. SI asked what software was being used, JF confirmed it is ARC GIS.

### **MIIA Grant:**

JF discussed the grant which will be 10k annually. This will provide new ladders and staging for working inside buildings, as well as multi gas meters for confined space entry, and a new drum truck to move chemical barrels. JF mentioned an infrared camera which can be used during a water main break to detect water temperature when locating a break. FSO asked if we have to identify ahead of time what we are going to use the money for and JF confirmed yes.

### **South Street Update:**

JF provided some updates: The roof is back on the building; the flashing needs to go around the edge. One part needed has a longer lead time therefore the timeline for completion has been pushed to March or April now. JF updated the Board that Well #6 PFAS levels are at 7 right now. JF realized by decreasing the pumping rate at Washington Street it changes the PFAS levels. JF noted Well #1 and Well #6 are scheduled for cleaning and redevelopment.

### **Capital Plan:**

JF discussed the Capital plan which runs to 2028 and includes an annual budget for replacing old water mains. FSO noted the plan requires keen observation by JF to determine which mains are the oldest and wettest areas in town requiring replacement. SI asked how many miles of watermain do we have, JF noted 85 miles of watermain.

### **Certificate of Completion:**

SI noted an order of conditions that runs with the land. PD noted the certificate was never recorded; SI noted it can still be recorded. JF noted the COC was for Washington Street Well field, FSO asked SI to follow up with conservation to determine the best course of action.

### **Penalty Waiver:**

FSO motioned to approve removing the penalty charge on bill #4710, SI seconded all in favor for 5:39pm

### **January Insert:**

The Board reviewed the insert provided by Wendy Bawabe. JF noted the cost will be covered by the conservation office. The Board approves of the insert to be sent with the January water bills.

### **Unanticipated Items:**

- PD mentioned that the DPH put out a PFAS report that is less demanding than the DEP.
- A new meter reader; Douglas Francoeur has been hired and his first day was today. He is a Duxbury resident and will work part time for Norwell Water.
- SI has travel plans between January and March and will be absent from the next meetings returning on March 1st.
- JF wants to replace the old Silverado in the future with a small SUV.
- PD also wants to take down more trees on South Street to reduce the risk of losing electricity during storms. JF agreed along the power lines toward the SSTP. PD wants to look at Grove Street as well for tree removal and power underground to Well #5.
- FSO asked will the proposed Grove Street Cell Tower infrastructure be buried, JF confirmed yes. JF noted some obstacles exist to moving forward with the cell tower.

- Water Rates: JF suggested to increase rates by 10% in 2025. FSO would like to see how these increases impact the budget.
- Cleaning and redeveloping wells, JF wants to put this back in the budget. JF reached out to Frank Sullivan and if this is not spent it goes back into retained earnings.
- JF wants to request 80k to do (10) hydrants a year and wants to add this to the budget. FSO noted the Town Accountant should come to a meeting when the budget and rate increase is on the agenda.
- SSTP: JF mentioned the Pilot study was approved by the state and NWD can move forward once Well #1 is back online.

FS made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM, seconded by PD.

Accepted: Fred St. Onge Date: 2/1/24