

**Wellfleet Board of Water Commissioners
Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday October 6, 2020; 4:00pm
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Jim Hood, Chair; Curt Felix, Catharie Nass, Neil Gadwa

Members Absent: Tom Flynn

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Austin Knight, Richard Wulsin, representatives from the Masonic Lodge; Eric Smith, Whitewater representative; community members from the town to hear updates on the boil water issues.

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 4:05pm

Scada System Replacement

- Chair Hood stated to the board that the RFP went out and there was only one response from Cape Cod Water Resources, Butch Nolan. It has been approved and signed. They are hoping for the work to begin within the next few weeks. He explained there was a \$2000 increase due to a bond that needed to be had.

Masonic Lane

- Chair Hood asked and Knight Wulsin are asking the board for confirmation on the connection to Masonic Lane. Chair Hood explained that since the lodge will be paying for the connection the board will waive the connection fees. The residents that will be signing onto town water will pay for their own curb stops and the line will be donated back to the town. The board discussed with Knight and Wulsin the details of plans and maps drawn by Robert B. Our. They discussed if there needs to be a 2-inch line or a 4-inch line. Wulsin stated he didn't want to do a 2-inch line if after the fact they were to find out that a 4-inch line was needed. Chair Hood stated he feels a 2-inch line will be sufficient but Robert Our along with Whitewater will determine which size line will be best.
- **Hood moved that the Board of Water Commissioners (BOW) has agreed to install at BOW's expense a curb stop on Whits Lane adjacent to the Koretz property, to waive the Water Connection Fee for the Property Owners' properties, and to pay for the water meters. The size of the curb stop will be determined by the Town's water system consultant Whitewater and the Robert B Our Company. Property Owners have agreed to install at Property Owners' expense a service line from the Whits Lane curb stop up to Masonic Lane then down to the Masonic Lodge parking lot with curb stops for each property. Once the service line is installed, Property Owners will donate the service line to the Town of Wellfleet and grant an easement to the Town for maintaining the service line. Property Owners have agreed that all work will conform to the Town's existing specifications. The BOW will be responsible for meters and all future connection expenses will be waived; Felix seconded the motion; Motion Carried 4-0**

- There was discussion with this motion, who will be responsible for replacing the lines when and if they need to be replaced. Chair Hood stated that would be the responsibility of the town. Felix stated that each homeowner that will be connecting they will need to sign an agreement with the town so that they are on the town water systems filing system incase there is an issue with a meter the owners can ne notified.

Positive bacteria findings in recent water samples

- Chair Hood introduced Eric Smith for an update and a list of events as they happened regarding the E. coli in the water system.
- Smith started explaining the formal timeline and stated Whitewater followed all DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) guidelines as they were expected to do. He stated the first report/detection came back on September 24, 2020 at the PT tap; they were collected as routine samples on September 23, 2020. DEP was notified and directed Whitewater to do more testing downstream. There was information provided that the Coles Neck Station was being kept active only as a back up source and not a distribution well. They did more testing downstream and DEP required an additional round of sampling. The next round came back positive for bacteria and the boil water order was issued Saturday September 26, 2020. DEP required flushing and chlorinating of the all the water lines beginning Sunday September 27, 2020. Flushing was done for three days and disinfection was done system wide. DEP required the first round of sampling system wide Monday September 28, 2020 11 places along the water system, there is a 24 hour turn around for test results. Another round of testing was done on Tuesday September 29, 2020 and the final testing was done Wednesday September 30, 2020 all three rounds of testing came back clean with no bacteria and on Thursday October 1, 2020 Mass DEP gave the direction to lift the boil water notice.
- Chair Hood asked the amount of chlorine put into the lines. Smith explained that they used .67/.68 parts per million of chlorine. Smith explained it was well below the allowable use of chlorine in water lines.
- Smith informed the board that they are continuing to collect additional samples making sure the lines are still bacteria free and will slowly reduce the use of chlorine. White water will test the water system every Tuesday moving forward. Smith explained to the board that DEP has all the information and are working on a draft public notice regarding fact clarification and will be submitted back to DEP to finalize and will be posted in the local paper and on the town's website.
- Chair Hood asked the board for their questions and concerns. There were a few questions from board members. Felix addressed rumors around Wellfleet about how the E. Coli was introduced into the water system. Smith explained that the E. Coli bacteria is usually from animal or human fecal matter. Smith explained to the board that the Coles Neck Well site has been isolated beginning September 27, 2020 so a backflow into the distribution lines won't happen again. The board then allowed questions or remarks from the residents attending the meeting. Questions were asked about who the contact person

was at DEP for Whitewater. The board continued to answer questions from the public regarding flushing the water system, maintaining the water system.

- Felix asked the Eldridge to give a full update on chain events from her office. Eldridge explained to the board that she received a phone call from Whitewater where they explained there was an issue in one of the water samples and needed to resample. She continued with the chain of events on how they handled the notifications to the town water customers and the new updated procedure to notify customers with future water issues.
- Discussion continued regarding testing and isolation of the Coles Neck Well site.

Emergency Alert System

- Eldridge explained to the board that she will now be using the health emergency line which allows the system to just call water customers when there is an issue with town water. The system works by emailing the customers first, there is a link on the email that allows the customers to click on it and that will confirm that they have received the notification. If there is no confirmation, then the system will call the customer ten minutes later and on that call the customer must press the number 1 to confirm they have received the message. If there is still no confirmation the system will bounce a message back to the health department, so we are able to reach out to those customers that didn't get the notification.
- Eldridge expressed that she would like to learn how to use the code red system, but it isn't a feasible system to be used when there is an issue concerning only the town water customers.

Coles Neck Water Main

- Smith explained that the well has been isolated after the backflow of water in the lines. Work is beginning in the next few weeks and hopefully will be done by the spring.
- There was discussion on the main that will be installed down Briar Lane and up Route 6 to Outer Cape Health Associates in Wellfleet.

Harborside Village

- Felix updated the board about updating tidal flow to May Creek and moving forward with hopefully connecting Harborside village to town water. He discussed wastewater and the water shed permit that the wastewater committee is progressively trying to acquire as required by Mass DEP.
- Felix went on to discuss the benefits of having Harborside connected to the municipal water system. Some examples included revenue, not having to flush so much un-used water. He stated the water system would be a good back up to the village and he stated again making an offer to them regarding a backup system.
- The board discussed these options at length, including year-round residents at Harborside village verses seasonal. The board will keep this on the agenda until a proposal is made to the harborside residents.

Evaluation of the water system financial model

- Chair Hood addressed the board that a consultant would be helpful with a financial model for not only the Harborside village residents but figuring out different aspects of the water connection and service fees. Smith gave the board a name of a group out of Framingham Mass that could help with figuring out the financial model and all aspects of it.
- The board discussed with community members the pros and cons of a consultant and how the town will be affected with rates. Felix stated having the water system based on connections fees isn't sustainable for the water fund. He agreed that they need to be looking at the next twenty to thirty years.
- A resident from Kendrick Ave spoke up and talked about being connected to town water but no meter yet and is looking to potentially connect to town water. He expressed some thoughts and concern to the board.

Minutes

- September 2, 2020 ~ Continued until the October meeting.

The board discussed their next meeting, Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 4:00pm

Felix moved to adjourn the meeting, Hood seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0
Meeting adjourned 6:02pm

Public Records:

No public records for this meeting.