

Wellfleet Board of Water Commissioners
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom
Tuesday October 20, 2020 – 4:00PM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Hood, Chair; Curt Felix, Neil Gadwa, Tom Flynn (4:10pm); Catharie Nass (4:22pm)

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Gail Ferguson, Community member; Eric Smith, Whitewater representative; John Aprea, Whitewater Representative;

Jim Hood called the meeting to order at 4:02pm

Masonic Lane ~ Questions for Whitewater to be answered

- Chair Hood asked Smith from Whitewater if he had any questions regarding the water hook up to Masonic Lane. He did look at a map from a previous conversation that was drafted by a former employee of Whitewater. Chair Hood explained it and said with this map a police detail would be needed for this water tap which they have since changed and a detail will not be needed. They discussed the curb stop and the pipe needed to tap the main.

E. Coli Incident: Tier Two and Other Emergency Forms to be filled out for DEP

- Chair Hood asked how the paperwork was coming regarding the tier two paperwork for Mass DEP. Smith explained that on his end the paperwork was almost complete, and Eldridge would be filing some paperwork with Whitewater that spoke to the communication to townspeople to finish the forms. Eldridge explained that she spoke with the DEP representative and was working on getting the article that DEP sent to be put in the paper. The article will be in the Cape Codder Newspaper on October 23, 2020. No motions or votes were taken.

Water Meters ~ Discussion on alternative to Mueller

- Smith stated he didn't have much information on the new meters. He has located some files that had a lot of supporting information that would be able to supply the board with a lot of options for the board to look at. Eldridge told the board that one Neptune meter was installed at a property and explained that it would have to be a manual read when the readings are taken in November. She explained that because it is one meter it won't be too hard to take that read.

SCADA System ~ Status on System upgrade

- Chair Hood updated the board that the contract for the new Scada system is back to town hall and has been signed, they are now just waiting for the next step.

Valve at Coles Neck Well ~ Proposal to install Shut off valve

- Chair Hood told the board that he and Gadwa were at the Cole's Neck Sight with Mike Nee from whitewater and they were showed the shut off valves which he was unaware that they were there. He asked that the valves be continued to be shut off and isolated. Smith stated that they have been since the boil water order. They will continue to discuss the isolation and valve issues. No motions or votes were taken.

Financial Model ~ Discussion on a consultant search

- The board discussed that they had a conversation with a representative from Thye & Bond but Chair Hood would like more options for the board. He stated he believed that this needs to be outsourced and isn't something that can be done in house and among just the board. Chair Hood stated he would like to look at what a model would look like adding new customers to the system. Felix explained he sent an email out to Scott Horsley who is a consultant with the wastewater committee and will ask Mike Trovato to put together and RFP to look for a consultant. He would imagine the consultant would have the experience in transitioning new customers and established customers to a new rate model. Chair Hood asked Felix if he would talk to Trovato in coming up with the wording for the scope of work that they need. Smith stated Whitewater uses a company out of Framingham. He will get the information to the board. No motions or votes were taken.

Engineering Services for water main project ~ Discussion on recommendation to the selectboard

- Chair Hood stated that in accordance with the state, the state doesn't consider this something that needs competitive bidding. He went on to say that he would recommend that the board use environmental partners because they have used them in the past and environmental partners knows the water system very well and he feels confident that they will do a great job for this project. Chair Hood stated he has been in contact with Paul Millette from environmental partners and he will get a contract together to follow the best practices and the price structure. Chair Hood stated that he will be in touch with town counsel and then will go before the selectboard. He would like to get the services underway quickly because when the funding comes through from Mass works grant, he would like them to be "shovel ready". He stated they would need to meet one more time with Millette to finalize the contract.

Customer Phone Request ~ Reduction or compensation of charges for during the E. Coli incident

- Eldridge informed the board that she had a request from a water customer regarding the E. Coli event in town and would there be any compensation to the customers. The board discussed it and in the regulations for the Board of Water Commissioners it states that the town is not responsible for events such as this, he went on to say that the board may want to chose to give a little relief to the customers. Five-hundred gallons per customer was a number that was discussed. The discussion continued and Eldridge would reach out to a

customer that reported to be sick. She will get back to the board. Chair Hood asked Smith if he has ever seen a water system offer compensation to customers. He stated that not in his experience with water systems.

Minutes

- September 2, 2020 ~ Chair Hood made a few changes to the spelling of names ~ **Felix moved to approve the minutes as amended, Flynn seconded; Motion carried 5-0**
- October 6, 2020 ~ **Nass moved to approve the minutes as amended; Flynn seconded; motion carried 5-0**

Business

- The board will hold their next meeting on November 10, 2020 at 4pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:05pm

Public Documents:

Agreement with Masonic Lane

Meeting minutes