

Wellfleet Board of Water Commissioners
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom
Tuesday November 10, 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; Eric Smith, Whitewater Representative; Jonathan Hobill, DEP representative; Gail Ferguson, Wellfleet resident;

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

Hydrologic Perc Test

- Chair Hood asked Felix to fill the board in on the perc testing. Felix explained to the board that the testing went very well, and the transfer station can handle a large amount of water flow, which he expressed was surprising to them. He stated that they used close to 24,000 gallons of water for the first day of testing. There were no issues with the hydrant set up. He expressed his gratitude to the Wellfleet DPW, he stated they were there during the perc test and were very helpful throughout the entire process.

Water Meter Update

- Chair Hood asked Smith to give an update on the water meters and the possibility of switching from Mueller meters to Neptune meters. Smith explained to the board that he spoke to Eldridge and the Mueller representative regarding the meter upgrade. Smith explained to the board that Mueller will be upgrading meters and their reading technology they will still help with the old meters. The new meter system will be able to read the old meters and the newer meters. The board discussed Mueller meters versus Neptune meters. There are technology advantages with Neptune with regards to the billing company Pennichuck. Smith asked for a phone call with Eldridge and the Mueller representative to see if the new software for Mueller will be beneficial to the town or if moving to the Neptune meters is a more financially sensible move. Chair Hood stated the cost to bridge the Mueller software to Pennichuck was a significant expense to the town. Felix asked the cost difference between the Neptune meters and the Mueller meters. This will be discussed at the zoom meeting with the Mueller representative. Eldridge stated she could possibly take the billing back to her office if the new Mueller technology is easier to use. Eldridge will set up a zoom meeting and report back to the board.

Follow Up response to DEP

- Chair Hood introduced Hobill from DEP to explain what PFAS (Per – and – Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) analyses are and why the town of Wellfleet would benefit from signing on with DEP to do it. Hobill began with stating what these analyses is and how it works. He stated the that certain wells would be tested at the entry point of the distribution places and to find out if the water in the town to reduce any chemicals. Hobill

stated he feels that Wellfleet would be non-detect for any chemicals but would be interested in testing the town. Chair Hood asked Hobill if the town comes back with a non-detect what are the regulations regarding more testing. Hobill stated that the town can apply for waivers for the rest of the quarterly testing. The board discussed testing and the fact that they aren't concerned for issues with any detection. Felix stated that although they may come back non-detect they would like to be able to put that in their water reports for customers to state that they are non-detect and that is a good thing for the water system and their customers. The first-year costs would be covered by a grant but after this year the town would be responsible for the costs. Chair Hood expressed he feels that the board should agree to do this. Whitewater will help with the testing process.

- **Felix moved to recommend to the Town Administrator to go ahead and participate and sign up for the PFAS testing, Nass seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0**
- Chair Hood asked Smith if there was any update regarding the EColi incident with the town. Smith stated there was nothing further other than the flushing protocol for the town has been increased. He stated the compliance to DEP was followed and there is nothing to report further. Felix asked if there were any other lingering issues regarding the incident. Emergency response times and notifications to the town. Smith stated not at this time and because the water customers have been added to the health emergency line they will be notified quicker if this should happen again. Smith stated the temporary chlorination that was done to clean the lines out was helpful and has been resolved but is not being done now. Chair Hood asked Smith if this is something that could be brought up to Butch Neylon, Smith stated it would be worth the conversation.
- Eldridge gave an update on the high electric bills stating that most well houses are run with electricity. She stated she feels that because the electricity is constantly flowing this could cause the high bills. Felix asked about having Cape Light Compact come in and do an energy audit. Eldridge will reach out and see if they can come in and evaluate the buildings to save the board money.

Engineering Contract

- Chair Hood gave the board an update that the contract with Environmental Partners has gone to town counsel for review and are waiting for them to return it. Once the contract is returned, they will take it to the Selectboard for final review.

Masonic Lane Agreement

- Chair Hood questioned the board if they were able to look at the agreement drafted by Richard Wilson. The agreement states the water commissioners are responsible for putting in a curb stop, and the connection fee will be waived as they are paying for the water main to be installed. There were a few other updates given regarding the Masonic Lodge and the property owners that will be connecting to water. Felix expressed concern that the signing of standard conditions was not done by the owners. He stated the owners need to agree to standard terms and conditions of water service. He wants to make sure the owners know they will be responsible for all water fees after installation. Usage and service fees. Eldridge will change the wording to read that the commissioners are

responsible for the connection fees but the owners will be responsible for usage fees, service fees and any work that needs to be done on the system once hooked on to the system.

New Business

- The next meeting will be held November 24, 2020 at 4:00pm
- No other business to report at this time.

Minutes

- October 20, 2020 ~ **Felix moved to approve the minutes as written; Gadwa seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0.**