



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Norwell Water Dept.
345 Main Street, Norwell

Present: Fred St. Ours, Peter Dillon and Water Superintendent Jason Federico and Town Accountant Christine McCarthy.

Prepared by: Donna Snow

Meeting Minutes:

FSO motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 1/4/24; PD seconded and all in favor at 4:31pm. Steve Ivas is unavailable until March 1st.

Commitment Review:

JF advised that the department is on track with revenue from the latest commitment. JF mentioned the new Town Hall has an irrigation system and he may separate the water usage from the other building in the future.

PFAS Filter Update:

JF advised the valves are in this week, however the wells need to be shut down to complete the installation. JF noted the plant will initially utilize activated carbon for PFAS removal. PD asked when DEP will get involved, JF noted sometime in March.

Discuss FY25 Budget:

Christine McCarthy was present to go over indirect expenses which she noted did not go up that much. There were savings with group insurance, but the pension assessment went up almost by the amount that was saved. PD asked about legal expenses and why the department is directly billed for legal expenses, he expected that it would be covered by the contribution from indirect costs. Christine McCarthy explained it is a flat percentage of overhead costs and legal is part of that. FSO asked is the school department separate; Christine McCarthy said they are separate. Some other costs discussed included: MIIA is specific to water; Soft Right utility billing is 2x a year and fuel is for all public works. Shane Gokey in highway provided water main road cuts and Christine McCarthy uses this to calculate a figure. The Board signed the indirect expense sheet as presented. FSO asked how article money is used, Christine McCarthy noted those monies do carry over. JF noted salaries are up due to contracts and rates with added increases for EPA compliance, and Professional Services. JF plans to look at both Grove and Washington treatment locations for preliminary PFAS design. The tuition line increased for new hire training. Contractor services went up for additional hydrant work, police details went up accordingly, as well as chemical costs. Leaks and New services went up and hydrants. JF placed well

cleaning back into the budget. JF explained the wells will be redeveloped every five years and they perform better when cleaned.

Water Rates:

JF explained he would like a 10% increase to cover these costs. FSO noted Jason will conduct a survey for rates with surrounding towns.

PFAS:

JF explained well #1 PFAS was high in the 30 range and well #6 was between (7-10) PFAS. These wells are in close proximity to each other. PD explained when well #1 is shut down the other wells PFAS levels rise and currently well #1 is not being pumped. PD explained some THM's will also be removed, FSO said the filter will remove more than just PFAS. FSO noted the plants average is a million gallons a day in water and 20 ppt (parts per trillion) equates to about an ounce per year of PFAS. PD noted Poland Springs has 7 ppt and microplastics is also a concern. FSO explained it is safer to use metal bottles with tap water to avoid microplastics.

FY25 Articles:

JF will present fund balances next time as articles need to be turned in soon.

Grove Street Cell Tower Proposal:

JF noted this plan with Verizon needs further discussion with the Board at a later date.

Washington Street Park Memorial for Jack McInnis:

JF will move forward with these plans when Glenn Ferguson is back from vacation so they can prep the site for the memorial.

Fire Department Truck:

JF asked the Board if the Chevy 3500 can be given to the Fire Dept. for a brush truck; the value is approximately 10k. FSO motioned to approve donating the truck to Norwell Fire, PD seconded all in favor at 5:23pm.

Next BOWC:

The Annual Town report can be discussed at the Boards next meeting.

FS made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM, seconded by PD.

Accepted:  Date: 3/1/2024