



Town of Wilbraham

Board of Water Commissioners
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting
August 20, 2020

Present by phone: Chairman, James Dunbar; Commissioner Rik Alvarez; Commissioner Douglas Hutcheson; Vinnie Pafumi, Water Superintendent.

Physically Present: Tonya L. Basch, DPW Director and Donna E. Daviau – Administrative Assistant.

This meeting is conducted in compliance with Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c 30A §20 (attached) signed March 12, 2020.

Announcement Per MGL c.36(a), 2020

The DPW director stated the following: In accordance with Mass. General Law Chapter 30(a), section 20, I announce that this meeting of the Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners is being recorded by the Engineering/DPW Office; and asked if there is anyone present who is also recording this meeting. No one was recording and the minutes reflect that one indicated that they are recording this meeting.

The DPW Director announced that this meeting is conducted in Compliance with Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20 signed March 12, 2020. Most participants of this meeting are attending electronically.

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 8:46 a.m.

MINUTES:

Motion was made and unanimously voted to accept Minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting.

BUDGET:

Nothing new.

MWRA:

The Daily Flows for the Town of Wilbraham are way up compared to the last three (3) years. We are pumping 3-4 million gallons per day during the month of July. Closer to 3 million gallons per day. Quabbin is currently at 95% capacity. There is no need for restrictions at this time.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

Anna Dyrkacz failed to appear before the Board. The Board once again reviewed her request, newly acquired correspondence and factual documentation of her account. The Board unanimously voted that no excessive amounts were billed and all billing, late fees and demand remain in place and will not vary from past practice/protocols. Chairman Dunbar will review the letter to be sent to the resident.

8 Nokomis Rd. Discussion took place, relative to an abatement. This hardship request is from an elderly man, who had contracted Covid-19. There was a water leak in the toilet, causing it to constantly run. As to an abatement for water, this has never been done before and may set a precedence. The Board will have further discussions on this matter at the next meeting. As to the sewer abatement, the Water Commissioners are recommending abating 2/3 of the sewer portion and the waiver of late fees and interest. The reason behind the recommendation is that most of the water passing through the sewer system was clear or clean water. The Wastewater bill from Springfield is based on concentration and flow. As clear/clean water was sent to Springfield, less expensive cost would be incurred. Donna is to have this placed on the Board of Selectmen's Agenda. Recommendation and Abatement to be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Payment Plan/Harships. Motion was made and unanimously voted that a payment plan be approved and the bill must be paid in full by October 1, 2020. Late fees and interest remain for 23 Victoria Lane; Motion was made and unanimously voted that late fees and interest stands, relative to 189 Miller Street.

Outstanding balance for the May 2020 water bill \$106,331.01. Friendly's bankruptcy amount is included in this figure (\$104,265.44), leaving a balance of \$2,066.57 as of Friday August 14, 2020.

Review of draft Shutoff Notice for refusal to access water meter, pursuant to Wilbraham Water Rules and Regulation. Motion was made and unanimously voted to approve the draft.

Westwood Drive resident. Resident paid what he thought he owed before the due date. Looking for an abatement, waiver of late fees and interest. He originally contacted the office on May 26, 2020 said he "just got bill". It is noted that it appears that he has a sprinkler system. Resident indicated he had a different reading (lower) than what we estimated. Asked him to snapshot meter head and forward to office. Never received snapshot. Have been trying to gain access to meter. Last actual reading was October 2018. Letters sent, door hangers placed and phone calls. June 15, 2020 he contacted the department after receiving a demand bill with late fees and interest. He paid what he thought he owed based on his calculations. The department indicated to him we never received the snapshot. Asked where he sent it to. "Can't find where it was sent". He sent Annette picture of meter head on June 15, 2020. Reading is higher than what he calculated. Based on information he provided he used 2,650 cf more since May 26, 2020 or

twenty (20) days. Motion was made and unanimously voted to serve Shutoff Notice per Order of Water Commissioners, on the grounds of refusal of access of the water meter. Said notices shall be sent both Certified Mail and Regular Mail. The Board unanimously voted that waiver of late fees and adjustment till we can inspect the meter.

Jamie to draft a press release educating residents relative to water conservation, ascending rates, expect higher bills; Do not water lawn during peak times as you may experience low water pressure.

Glenn Drive. Yesterday last services finished for the main. Attempting to put more pipe in ground. We only have two (2) weeks before we begin meter reading. Once meter reading is complete we will begin work again.

Water Entry Fee. Need to evaluate entry fees. Donna and Vinnie to prepare spreadsheet of surrounding communities entry fees for next meeting.

We will be replacing recently retired employee in a week or so. The Commission will have a brief meeting about the prospective candidate.

Other Business:

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020 at 8:45a.m.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna E. Daviau
Administrative Assistant