

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING OF MAY 28, 2020

REGULAR MEETING:

The joint meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners with the Granby Selectboard was held at the 438 Granby Road office and Remote Access Virtual/ Electronically with the Granby Selectboard due to the current State of Emergency on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Granby Town Administrator Christopher Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Chairman	R. Scott Williams
Clerk	Brian S. McClaflin
Associate Member	William L. Schenker
Superintendent	Jeffrey A. Cyr
Office Manager	Jennifer Fernandes

GRANBY SELECTBOARD:

Town Administrator	Christopher Martin
Granby Selectboard	Glen N. Sexton
Granby Selectboard	Jay Joyce
Granby Selectboard	Jennifer Silva
Granby Police Lieutenant	Kevin O'Grady

GRANBY ROAD WATER

MAIN PROJECT DISCUSSION: Granby Selectboard member Jay Joyce opened up the meeting by stating that the Granby Selectboard is still planning on going along with the Mass D.O.T. project and Mass D.O.T. is still planning to lay the pipe for Granby. Jay Joyce stated that Granby has gotten all that the Water Department has required and is ready to move forward. Jeffrey Cyr remarked that the one key component to the project is the Water Department still has no idea how many business' and/or residences are actually **committed** to getting our water. Jeff stated that without at least 50% to 60% people on the water main we could have a water quality issue which would require the Water Department to flush the water main, which is wasteful and costly. Jeff stated that another component is that initially Granby Selectboard stated that Mass D.O.T. was going to incur the costs of Police detail and inspections. Jay Joyce stated he has 48 letters from customers that they are willing to get South Hadley water. Jeff Cyr noted that the customers may say they want water from South Hadley, but do they really know the costs of getting the water. Jeff noted that there is a \$2000 per unit fee in addition to the costs to lay pipe from the main to their homes as well as the costs of abandoning their wells. Christopher Martin asked Jeff what he thought an average cost would be for a home owner or business to get water. Jeff responded that the costs to property owners could be anywhere from \$2500 to \$4000 and up. Jeff stated that if a property owner is more than 100 feet off the water main the property owner is required to install a meter pit at additional costs of \$700 to \$1000. Chris Martin then asked what an average water bill would be for a single home. Jeff responded that an average water bill for a single home would be around \$450 annually. Jennifer Silva asked Jeff Cyr if the application that is online under Development Requirements is the one in the Water Department needs, it says Application for

Impact study. Jeff responded that the Impact Study is a totally different application. Jeff noted the application for water service is acquired in the office and one application can be filled out for all the property/parcel owners. Jennifer Silva inquired about backflow prevention and asked what the Water Department's backflow prevention regulations are. Jeff noted he will forward the policy to all the Granby Selectboard members tomorrow. Jay Joyce remarked that Granby Highway Superintendent, Dave Desrosiers and Marion Excavating were going around to each parcel and giving costs, but that was before the Covid 19 pandemic started. Jeff Cyr noted that he is surprised that Marion's Excavating wouldn't notify him and ask for the Districts' requirements. Jeff Cyr mentioned that Chappell Engineering is providing a scope the project with a bid package, but he would like it if Tighe and Bond Engineering would perform the field inspection, as they are familiar with our requirement and water system. Chris Martin noted that he wonders how many business owners would actually take part in getting So. Hadley water if they knew the real costs. Jeff noted that there could potentially be more costs to homeowners than is realized for example, how many properties have cellars vs slabs and is the well or septic system in the way of where the water line would go to the foundation. Glen Sexton remarked that he *does* understand what the Water Department is looking for in terms of commitment from property owners and stated that the Granby Selectboard has some more work to do. Glen Sexton asked if someone would still be able to use their well for outside purposes if it was disconnected to the home. Jeff noted that in the previous Morgan Street, Granby project we required the homeowners to totally abandon and fill in their wells to eliminate any future potential for contamination, but that project was paid in full by a company. Jeff stated but it is up to our Water Board to decide that. Scott Williams stated he would not have a problem if a homeowner would like to use their well for watering or farming if the Water Department could inspect the disconnected well. William L. Schenker repeated that the Water Department would need a solid commitment from a large number of property owners to be able to move forward. Jeff Cyr expressed that we are all in this together and the Water Department is willing to help out wherever they can but it is up to the Granby Selectboard to follow through on the details.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Granby Selectboard member Jennifer Silva made a motion to adjourn from the joint meeting, which was seconded by Jay Joyce. Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: Joint Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

CONTINUATION OF WATER BOARD COMMISSION MEETING:

The Board discussed that Granby initially inquired about getting water from us because of the rising ground water table in Granby and concerns about contaminating the wells in the future. William Schenker stated that back in the 50's Granby also had a chance to connect with the MWRA but a lot of the farmers in Granby voted it down. Jeff Cyr noted he thought there was a MVP Grant (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant) that he thought the Granby Selectboard was going to look into. The Board discussed their concerns of having this water main installed into Granby and then not having a lot of usage or having the Granby owners taking part in the project.

William Schenker noted that the water would be stagnant and cloudy and the Water Department would be left with the cost of flushing the water main often. Brian McClafin and Scott Williams both agreed they are concerned with that as well.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

William L. Schenker made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brian S. McClafin. Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Brian S. McClafin, Clerk