

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at the 438 Granby Road Office on Thursday, September 16, 2020. Chairman R. Scott Williams 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 L. Fernandes
Office Billing Clerk	Kari Scytkowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Brian S. McClaflin made a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, 2020. This motion was seconded by William L. Schenker. Motion Carried

ON-LINE PAYMENT DISCUSSION: Jeff Cyr updated the Board that we are moving forward with offering our customers a way to pay on our website with their checking account. We now offer our customers the option to pay with their credit card, but customers have asked for checking account options for some time. Jennifer Fernandes explained that we will now offer a one-time checking account payment (e-check) for a fee as well as a reoccurring monthly checking account payment (ACH) for free. Jennifer stated that she has contacted our billing software company CUSI, Treasurer, Terie Fleury and our bank Easthampton Savings. We have a dedicated account for these payments at Easthampton Savings so we are able to reconcile the account easier at the end of the month.

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION: Jeff Cyr updated the Board that Boynton Avenue water main replacement project is complete. Jeff noted during the water main project they discovered that Milkman Cut, which is between Boynton and Richview, was not connected when the water main on Richview Ave. was done in the late 80's. Jeff stated that Milkman Cut was only an additional 300feet. Kari Scytkowski asked why we would even do it if it was not done back then. Jeff responded that it will help to improve water quality and provide a "loop" by connecting the two streets. Jeff noted the Maintenance Crew received a nice compliment about their road patch by the new DPW Director Chris Bouchard. The total cost of the water main projects came in at \$120,000, on the open market the work would have been around \$350,000. Jeff mentioned that a portion of Berwyn Street was replaced in the past, and they would like to possibly finish Berwyn Street between Newton and Vivianni St. this fall.. Jeff noted that we still have a balance of \$544,000 in the Newton Street Water Main project account to use toward these projects.

ALVORD STREET
TANK CLEANING:

Jeff Cyr presented the Board with before and after pictures from cleaning of the Alvord Street Water Tank. Jeff noted that National Wash Authority cleaned the outside of the Alvord Street water tank on September 10th. Jeff stated they cleaned most of the tank with the exception of the top portion of the bowl, as they didn't have a lift long enough. Jeff remarked that it did come out very nice, and the owner of the company asked Jeff if he was satisfied with the job. Jeff told the owner he would like the job finished and the rest of the tank cleaned. The company is coming back next Monday, July 21st to finish to top portion of cleaning the tank with a bigger lift. National Wash authority will be onsite September 21st to complete the cleaning. Jeff remarked that the paint job, which was done in 2004 is still holding up very well. There is no evidence of rust bleeding through. Jeff noted that the next time we need the tank painted most likely we will be able to just do an overcoat instead of blasting down to bare metal. The cost of the work from National Wash Authority was \$12,300. William L. Schenker asked when the Water Tank was constructed. Jeff responded it was constructed in 1968.

HYDRANT FLUSHING:

Jeff stated that the Maintenance Crew will flush the Fire Hydrants right after Columbus Day the week of October 13-16th. The hydrant flushing will help improve water quality in the water mains.

LEAPING WELLS DAM SAFETY
REPORT DRAFT FROM TIGHE
AND BOND:

Jeff Cyr presented the Board the draft report and pictures from the inspection of the Leaping Wells Dam that was done by Tighe and Bond. The inspection of the Dam is required by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation every 2 years. Jeff stated that a lot of what was found has been the same for the past few years. There is an old overflow pipe across Rt202 that connects to the gate house that is about 15-20feet deep that trickles out water. It was suggested to have that the pipe be inspected by camera/video. It was also suggested we fill in a sink hole near the fence on the opposite side of the reservoir and fill in the erosion happening along the fence off Rt202. There is a valve across the street that we are able to control the level of the reservoir by lowering the water when needed. The report recommended a valve put between the Gate House and valve across the street. Jeff noted that to put the valve in between the Gate House and valve across the highway would require draining the reservoir and require a lot of work and money. The sink hole and erosion happening along the fence on Rt202 will be taken care of by our Maintenance Crew. The Board discussed the recommendations and decided not to do any work to the overflow pipe or installation of a valve to the line going from the gate house to the valve across the highway to avoid opening up a lot of other potential problems.

COMPENSATION
DISCUSSION:

William L. Schenker opened up the discussion of compensation for the Water Department employees for the next fiscal budget talks. Mr. Schenker noted he knows good employees are hard to come by and would like to compensate the crew to let them know how much they are appreciated for how hard they work. Mr. Schenker mentioned that he is working on putting together a proposal for the

Board and when complete he would like to sit down with Jeff Cyr to go over it before presenting to the rest of the Board. Brian S. McClafin stated he agreed he doesn't want to lose the good people we have. Jeff Cyr reminded the Board they already offer the staff bonuses by allowing us the full day off Christmas Eve, instead of half day and the full day off after Thanksgiving. Jeff noted that the staff does know how much they are appreciated by the Board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

R. Scott Williams a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brian S. McClafin.

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Brian S. McClafin, Clerk