

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2017

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at the 438 Granby Road Office on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Clerk John A. Mikuszewski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman David T. Daly
Clerk John A. Mikuszewski
Associate Member William L. Schenker
Superintendent Jeffrey A. Cyr

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS: The weekly warrants were signed by all Board Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: William L. Schenker made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2016. This motion was seconded by John A. Mikuszewski. Motion Carried

LEAK AT WEST SUMMIT
AND NORTH MAIN ST
1/3/2017: Jeff Cyr notified the Board there was a leak at West Summit and North Main Streets. A customer called the office to report water coming out of the street(s). The clay soil rotted the bolts off on the coupling. Jeff noted that it was probably leaking for a while and the ductile iron on that section is still in good shape. Jeff also noted that we no longer use this style coupling and has been replaced by a stainless steel version. In addition, couplings are wrapped with plastic sheeting to prevent corrosion.

TWO YEAR WARRANTY
INSPECTION FOR
ALVORD ST. TANK: Jeff Cyr informed the Board that our two- year warranty inspection on the interior coating of the Alvord Street tank is due July 2017 (See Note 1). Joe Harris of ITI (Infrastructures Technologies Inc.) will oversee a remote operated vehicle to inspect the interior of the tank and report back to Jeff the results. John A. Mikuszewski made a motion to award ITI \$3000 to inspect the interior of the Alvord Street tank. This motion was seconded by William L. Schenker. Motion Carried

CONTINUING FY18
BUDGET DISCUSSION: Jeff Cyr presented the Board with a final Budget for fiscal year 2017/2018. (See Note 2) Retirement will increase 3% and Health insurance will be increasing 9.7%. Jeff noted the funding for the Capital accounts are bare bones with most of the money being put toward funding the Water Tank Stabilization and Water Main Replacement accounts. The Board discussed funding the OPEB and Critical Infrastructure accounts as well. William L. Schenker opened the discussion of raises for the employees saying he feels strongly about giving a 3% raise this year, as last year was 0% and the previous year was 1%. Jeff suggested the Board think hard about giving raises, and suggested 2%.

CONTINUING FY18
BUDGET DISCUSSION
CONT.:

Jeff noted we did turn back \$85,000 in Wages last year. After an extensive discussion, William L. Schenker made a motion to approve the FY 2017/2018 Budget with a 3% raise for employees. This motion was seconded by John A. Mikuszewski. Motion Carried

ASBESTOS SAFETY
COURSE:

Jeff Cyr notified the Board that the Maintenance crew last had an Asbestos safety course 5 years ago and were due for a refresher course. The Maintenance Crew took a refresher course on January 11, 2017. Jeff noted the D.E.P. is becoming stricter with the Asbestos regulations requiring the pipe sections to be removed, bagged and disposed properly. This will directly result in increased costs to the Dept. for the disposal. Per DEP rule, we can only store the bagged pipe for a 30 day period then disposed of by an approved company and licensed landfill. Jeff will keep the Board updated on costs as we incur them.

NEWTON ST. WATERMAIN:

William Schenker inquired about the timeline to begin the Newton St. Water Main replacement in the event that the public asks after receiving the rate increase letter. Jeff Cyr responded by saying we will see how the revenues look after the 4th quarter billing is complete in order to start the process. Jeff reminded the Board that we qualify for the MWRA loan until FY2020, but would like to engage sooner than that. Jeff suggested we invite the MWRA to our next meeting to get informed on the application process. Jeff will keep the Board updated.

LEAPING WELLS
RESERVOIR ACCESS:

William Schenker was informed of an incident recently where Ice skaters were confronted by the So. Hadley Police Dept. and asked to leave the ice. The property is posted with no trespassing signs and we continue to have problems with people. The Board is concerned about liability in the event of an injury. The Board directed Jeff to contact our Counsel, Mark Beauregard to explore the possibility of Pressing charges on offenders that trespass including skating and fishing, etc. Jeff will keep the Board informed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

John A. Mikuszewski made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by William L. Schenker Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

John A. Mikuszewski, Clerk