



**Georgetown Water Department
Board of Water Commissioners Meeting**

Minutes Recorded

Meeting Date: April 3, 2023

Meeting Location: Water Office

1 Moulton St Georgetown, MA.

Attendance:

Board of Water Commissioners: (BWC) Nick Lawler (Chair), Steve King, Jeff McClure

Georgetown Water Department (GWD) Staff: Marlene Ladderbush (Utility Director), Stacie Melchin (Water Clerk)

Minutes keeper: Stacie Melchin

Attendee: Robert Stevenson (Georgetown Resident 113 West Street)

Public Input

Chair to address any/ all attendees

Preliminary Matters:

Meeting called to order by Nick Lawler Chairman @ 7:00pm

Water Department

Agenda Item No.1

Financials FY23

Marlene reported to the board that financials continue to be in line with the budget and that there has not been any unexpected major purchases or expenses since last month's meeting.

Agenda Item No.2

Water Rate Increase

A discussion regarding a five percent water rate increase ensued in which Marlene reiterated the reasons behind the increase including revenue loss due to drought/water ban, material costs increases, infrastructure maintenance, etc. The BWC requested data concerning water sold over the last three years for the May meeting in order to finalize the percentage for the water rate increase.

Agenda Item No.3

Capital Projects Update

Weston and Sampson have been evaluating all three wells and sending information along with recommendations to Marlene to assist in determining each of the wells' needs in order to reach maximum efficiency concerning maintenance and production.

Marlene reported that the Impoundment Project continues to be monitored with prospects of benefits to occur possibly by the Fall.

Marlene expressed concern the GWD has not yet received information about the general NPDES permit. However, Marlene reaffirmed that GWD is currently covered under the MA EPA general permit while awaiting approval of our permit.

Marlene stated that she has updated and completed a new source water management plan draft through MA Rural Water Association. Once the plan is finalized, Marlene plans to present it to the board for review.

Agenda Item No.4

WTP Filter Refurbishment Update

Marlene presented the memo regarding the filter refurbishment update timeline and reasons behind postponing the refurbishment until late Fall. A discussion occurred between Marlene and the board including performance of the new refurbished filter (four cells), backwashing protocols, and further expectations of refurbished filter improvements. The board and Marlene agreed that due to the dire need for flushing, along with the other discussed variables, that postponement is the best path to take at this time.

Utility Director Update

Agenda Item No.5

Mill St Gate Replacement

Marlene stated that one gate valve has been replaced and completed at Mill Street. Marlene reported that the other gate valve intended for replacement was re-evaluated as in good operating condition, therefore, no need for replacement at this time. Marlene told the board she is awaiting approval from Orlando (town administrator) to use the granted federal funds to schedule further infrastructure improvements.

Agenda Item No 6

Commissioner's Well Update

Marlene alerted the board that Commissioner's pump was pulled for an evaluation which found both the pump and screen to be severely clogged. Marlene reported that the problem was resolved and Commissioner's performance has improved to date.

Other Business

Marlene told the board that a property owner inquired about a possible dormant connection to our water system at 256 Georgetown Road in Boxford and expressed interest in joining our water system. The board and Marlene agreed that GWD could mark out the area according to our tie card on file as a courtesy, however, further exploration must be done by the owner and presented in writing for review to determine if joining our water system is a viable option.

Agenda Item No.7

Approval of March 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes by Steve King

Seconded by Jeff McClure

All in Favor

Vote 3-0

New Business

Steve King updated the board that he and Marlene will be meeting on April 14, 2023 to open negotiations regarding the renewal for the union contract.

Agenda Item No.8

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Next meeting date set for May 4, 2023 at 7pm

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:02pm moved by Steve King

Seconded by Jeff McClure

All in Favor

Vote 3-0