

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Board of Water Commissioners met in open session on Tuesday January 4, 2022. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. via teleconference.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 1, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Westfield Water Commission & Board of Public Works will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the City of Westfield website at www.cityofwestfield.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by tuning into Channel 15 or online at westfieldtv.org. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City's website an audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The meeting was recorded via teleconference on the City of Westfield Community Program YouTube.

WATER ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS:

Office Manager Hannah Larkham presented a water abatement application for 459 Russell Rd to the Board. At the last Commission Meeting, Dan Burack spoke to the Board about a water service leak at Tekoa Country Club. He asked the Board to consider an abatement due to the amount on the bill being extremely high. Hannah presented calculations to both the Board and Dan that was agreeable for a credit to be issued on the account.

Motion made by Commissioner Cole to approve water abatement for 459 Russell Rd in a credit amount of \$29,451.04. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Cole- YES
- Commissioner Niedzielski- YES
- Commissioner Popielarczyk- YES

The second abatement Hannah presented to the Board was a utility lien abatement for 91 East Mountain Rd. City Collector Matthew Barnes reached out to Hannah to inform her that a payment for 91 East Mountain Rd was misapplied and in turn lien to the property. At this time, the bills have been paid and the City is looking to have the interest collected on the delinquent bills removed due to clerical error.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the utility lien abatement for 91 East Mountain Rd in the amount of \$963.58. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Cole- YES
- Commissioner Niedzielski- YES
- Commissioner Popielarczyk- YES

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Cole to approve the minutes as written for December 7, 2021 meeting of the Board of Water Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Cole- YES
- Commissioner Niedzielski- YES
- Commissioner Popielarczyk- YES

Project Updates

Deputy Superintendent Steve Fernandes talked about the current updates in the Water Division. Owen District Water Treatment Plant is running and the lab values are where they should be. Well 2 is still off and on stand-by. The Dry Bridge Water Treatment Plant contracts have been awarded for construction to begin in the spring. Ludlow Construction has won the pipe line contract and Daniel O'Connell won the building construction contract. The reservoir is currently full.

Jeff Gamelli talked about a few projects for the Sewer/Waste Water Division. Tighe & Bond is currently working on designs for replacement of pump stations at Stuart Place, South St, Pochassic Rd, and Ponders Hollow Rd. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been approved for the construction of the pumps. He is hoping to have one contractor for all sites. At last month's Council meeting, the Council unanimously voted to approve the sewer rate increase. Jeff thanked the Board and all the help he received to make this happen. The Council did request from the Water Commission to recommend some type of betterment fee for residents who have not connected to the City sewer system. After some research, there was approximately 700 properties that have accessibility to the sewer system but are not connected. The Board asked Jeff if he would be able to work with the Health Department to see if they could help us identify the age of septic's in those neighborhoods that are still not connected.

Adjourn

The next scheduled commission meeting will be held on February 1, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to adjourn; Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole, Motion approved.

Roll Call Vote:

- Commissioner Cole- YES
- Commissioner Niedzielski- YES
- Commissioner Popielarczyk- YES

ADJOURN: 8:27 P.M.

Chairman

Secretary

Member

