

RECEIVED

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Board of Water Commissioners met in open session on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building, Council Chambers. MAR 10 2020

Those in attendance were: Water Commissioners Joseph Popielarczyk (Chairman); Ron Cole (Secretary); John Niedzielski (Member); Public Works Director David Billips; Assistant Director Francis Cain; Water System Engineer Heather Stayton; Water Deputy Superintendent Steve Fernandes; Water Pollution Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli; Budget Analyst Joanna Williams; Recording Secretary Hannah Larkham

The meeting was being recorded by Office Manager Hannah Larkham.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Kristen Melo- 27 Moseley Ave: Kristen was present at the meeting to request a few things from the Board and Department. She has been working with UMass Amherst on the studies of the PFAs within the City. She is looking to have in writing from the City access to raw water for UMass to collect samples to be tested. She also has a records request for the final finding of the Cabot Rd study and the issues at wells 7 & 8 and looking to get those soon. Finally, she is requesting some more information in regards to the work that is being done on East Mountain Rd and the post that was put on the City website in regards to it.

Kathleen Hilman- 179 Susan Dr: Kathleen was present at the meeting to request that more information regarding the work being done on East Mountain Rd be available to the public. She would like to know if the water is safe to drink and if she should expect the water to be brown throughout the day.

Mike Burns- 19 Kylie Lane: Councilor Burns came to the Board to inform them he will be the Liaison and if they need any assistance from him to reach out; he is more the happy to assist with anything. He also wanted to let the Board know that he proposed to the Council a few years ago that they combined the Water Commission and Board of Public Works to a five person board with an alternative. It is currently in the Legislative & Ordinance Committee and Mike would like to know both positive and negative thoughts about this from both Boards before they take the next steps.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Approval of Acquisition: 99 Pontoosic Rd- Carmel Property

Water Systems Engineer Heather Stayton presented to the Board the acquisition of land located at 99 Pontoosic Rd. It directly abuts Wells 3 & 4 and will allow us to protect the land even more than before. There is currently a grant that the City can apply for that would have up to 50% return for purchasing this land. The City has contacted the landowner and they are more than willing to work with us.

Motion made by Commissioner Popielarczyk to authorize the Mayor of the City of Westfield and the Westfield City Council to proceed with the acquisition of approximately +/- 27.5 acres of land at 99 Pontoosic Rd in the City of Westfield known as the Carmel Property and further authorize the expenditure of \$90,000 for this acquisition. The property consists of two parcels identified as: Westfield Assessor's map 19R, Parcel 26 & 39 and Hampden County Registry of Deeds book 21669 page 55. The purpose of this acquisition is drinking water protection and land conservation and the acquired land will be under the care and control of the Board of Water Commissioners. The Westfield Department of Public Works-Water Division is authorized to seek funding under the Massachusetts Drinking Water Supply Grant Program, Bid #BD-20-1042-ENV-ENV01-45989 and to enter into any required contracts for this purchase. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

Utility Lien Abatement: 4 King St

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Utility Lien Abatement for 4 King St. The water to this property was turned off in 2014 and the charges were never inactivated. The bills went unpaid and lien towards the property. The charges have since been turned off so further charges cannot be accrued.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the Utility Bill Lien Abatement for 4 King St in the amount of \$2,072.40. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

Abatement Application: 32 Hampden St

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Abatement Application for 32 Hampden St. The residents had a leak in one of the toilet that has since been repaired by a plumber. The subsequent consumption showed the repairs had taken place and was back to its average.

Motion made by Commissioner Cole to approve Abatement Application for 32 Hampden St in credit amount of \$324.86. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Abatement Application: 130 Whitaker Rd

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Abatement Application for 130 Whitaker Rd. After further investigating this property, the bills had been lien and this application is being requested as a Utility Lien Abatement. This property had a long service line that was leaking. There has been attempts to locate the leak on the property owner's side which would result in a very expense fix. Since then the property owners have disconnected from the City Water and have hooked up to a well. The bills that showed the leak went unpaid and lien towards the property. The owners are looking to have the bills adjusted in the same manner as an abatement. This relief would show on the real estate tax lien and not their utility account.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the Utility Lien Abatement for 130 Whitaker Rd in the amount of \$669.98. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Cole to approve the minutes as written for January 7, 2020 meeting of the Board of Water Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Project Updates

Heather Stayton informed the Board the meter project currently has 8,729 meters installed as of February 8th. The contractor has four crews out daily installing 30-40 meters. The project has been extended to April- May 2020 due to the decrease in appointments over the winter.

The project at Owen District Water Treatment Plants is awaiting Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval and substantial completion of building construction.

The Department is actively sampling the vessel at Well 2. A sample is pulled about every three weeks once we have received the previous results. All results that have come back with non-detect at the mid-point and point of entry. Well 2 is the only active well on the North side of Westfield and has approximately 180 million gallons of treated water through the temporary vessel.

The Water Treatment Plant on Dry Bridge has received its continual approval from DEP as of this past Friday. Some revisions and additional information will be required, but nothing too major. The City will proceed with permitting, neighborhood outreach, etc.

The water level at the reservoir is currently full and overflowing. It is 9.80 feet which is 0.2 feet over the spillway height.

East Mountain Tank Replacement is expected to begin this spring. The water line installation is ongoing.

Work on the Tekoa Dam Removal Project is on hold due to change in work conditions. The Department is working with the Purchasing Department, Law Department, and Tighe & Bond on resolution of the contract.

The turbine has been turned back on and has 200-250 Kilowatt per hour (KWH) daily.

Water Pollution Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli was present at the meeting to inform the Board on some new information regarding this division. Jeff has learned that the sludge hauling rate is expected to go up for removal and transportation. In some areas of the country it is expected to more than double in rate. If this is the case, this division will need to ask for more money to help pay for this which may include a rate increase for residents and commercial property owners. The bid documents are out and are expected to be received in early March.

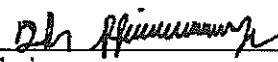
Jeff also informed the Board that the HVAC system for the operation center at the Treatment Plant needs to be redone. The Department is weighing out their options to either revamp the HVAC system or build a new building for office space, labs, break room, etc. depending on what may come at a lower cost.

Director Billips informed the Board that he, Fran, and Jeff Gamelli spoke at the NEWEA conference held in Boston a few weeks ago. They were well received by all and Jeff Gamelli received an award- NEWEA Asset Management Achievement Award.


The next meeting of the Board of Water Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Adjourn

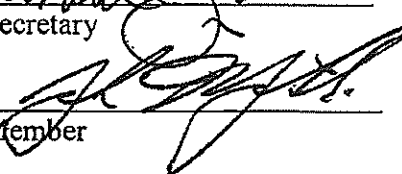
Motion made by Commissioner Cole to adjourn; Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski, Motion approved. ADJOURN: 6:47 P.M.



Chairman



Secretary



Member

