

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners
Monday, March 9, 2020
Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility
14 Bell Hill Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Present: Tim Nason, Shiela LeBlanc, Scott Bomabard, Rich Kennan and
Administrative Assistant, Kelly Valeri

Absent: None

The meeting opened @ 6:00 PM

Review and approve the minutes

Mr. Nason made a motion to approve the February 3, 2020 minutes as written. Mr. Bombard seconded the motion. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

Superintendent Report

- **Fire on Old East Brookfield Rd** – There was a fire on Old East Brookfield Rd. This was a perfect example of why the Elm Street Project could help eliminate low flow to the area.
- **Brush Removal**- The Operators have done a great job working on brush removal around Horse Pond. They are about ¾ of the way done.
- **Operators taking exam** – Mr. Kennan informed the Board that both Operators have taken and passed their T2 and D2 Licensing Exams.
- **Service line repair**- The owner of 6 Fullam Hill Rd. called in a leak to or near his residence. The owner assumes the leak has been ongoing for a while as his sump pump has been running nonstop.
- **Water main leak**- There was a major water main leak on 326 North Main Street. The situation was dire due to the condition of the valves inability to be able to shut down water flow. Our crew did a fantastic job of repairing despite the conditions faced.
- **Annual Statistical Report**- The annual statistical report is underway. Once again the Water Department is looking at high unaccounted water numbers. Mr. Kennan will discuss more on hydrant policies in New business to help get these numbers down.
- **Bates St. leak**- Mr. Kennan will be repairing a leak on Bates Street with Ed Thibeault.
- **Osterman Propane**- Osterman was contacted to look at the plumbing going to the tanks. There are small leaks that need repair. The tanks are 20 years old so they will be replaced and repairs will be made at that time.

- **Water Tower-** The Tower located at Bell Rd. had quite a few bricks fall during the heavy winds a few weeks ago. This poses a hazard. The Selectmen were notified and are working with Mr. Kennan as to what to do next with the Tower.
- **Beavers-** Beavers are back at the pond. The beaver specialist has been called and will begin trapping in a couple of weeks.
- **Solitude Contract-** The pond treatment contract was ready for review and approval by the Board. A copy will be sent to the Selectmen for signatures.

New Business

- The Elm Street project could go in the FY2022 Budget. Mr. Kennan stated that would give Mr. Bombard time to check on grant participation. The goal would be to receive 50% grant and 50% department obligation. Mr. Kennan feels monies in retained earnings could sustain not borrowing any loan amounts if grants are met.
- Mr. Kennan gave each Commissioner a copy of the current Water Department by-laws. He asked that they review them along with a couple of changes he would like to add. A discussion and vote can take place at a later meeting.
- Mr. Kennan had a copy of a Planning Board letter he discovered that mentioned implementing the current Mass General Laws pertaining to the protection of Horse Pond. He would like to submit the letter to current Planning Board members for review.
- A transfer will need to be done at the Special Town Meeting. Due to the numerous leaks/breaks in the distribution system, monies will have to be transferred from Retained Earnings to the System Improvement account.
- Mr. Kennan would like to contact abutters of Horse Pond for any possible land acquisition to help further protect the land around the pond.
- Emergency Action Plan letters were sent to the Town Hall in regards to Doane's Pond. No one at the water department had been contacted about this EAP until a member of the conservation committee contacted Ms. Valeri. There are currently emails to the DCR to try and figure out who is responsible for this action plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Valeri
Administrative Assistant