

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners  
October 6, 2014  
Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility  
14 Bell Hill Road  
North Brookfield, MA 01535**

Present: **Tim Nason, John Thomasian, James Kularski, Steve Jones  
& Kristen Thacker (Secretary of the meeting minutes)**

Absent: None

**The meeting opened at 5:59pm.**

**Review and Approve the Minutes**

James Kularski made a motion and John Thomasian seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 BOWC meeting after two spelling errors were corrected. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

**Review and Approve the Minutes**

James Kularski made a motion and John Thomasian seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014 BOWC meeting. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

**Special Town Meeting on October 24, 2014**

The Water Department has two articles on the Warrant for the upcoming Special Town meeting that is being held on Friday October 24, 2014. The first is to pay a bill from Premier Laboratory from last February that was never paid. To see if the town will vote to transfer \$515.00 from the Water retained earnings to the Fiscal Year 2014 unpaid bills account or take any action relative thereto. The second is to use two weeks of unused operator's pay for Shiela LeBlanc when she comes to the Water Department to train Kristen Thacker and to keep Joe Flamand working one day a week for as long as allotted. Mr. Flamand will be at the Water Department to do the cleaning to allow Mr. Kennan to concentrate on his training in his new position as the North Brookfield Water Department Plant Operator. To see if the town will vote to transfer \$1900.00 from the Water Operator Salary to the Water/Other Salary account or take any action relative thereto.

**Operator Update**

John Thomasian and Stephen Jones went to the Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 16, 2014. Mr. Thomasian gave the Board of Selectmen the Board of Water Commissioners recommendation to hire Rich Kennan as the next Water Operator for North Brookfield. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to hire Rich Kennan. After Mr. Kennan gives his current

employer a two week notice he will start at the North Brookfield Water Department on Tuesday October 7, 2014. John Thomasian met with the Board of Selectmen regarding the three weeks of vacation that Rich Kennan was asking about. Mr. Jones asked if the Board of Selectmen were going to allow Mr. Kennan to have the three week vacation at the start of his hire being that Mr. Kennan was an employee of the North Brookfield Water Department for nine years prior. As chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners and speaking with the Board of Selectmen it has been decided that Mr. Kennan's vacation will be available to him on July 1, 2015, the beginning of the new Fiscal Year for the town of North Brookfield.

### **Supt Report**

There was an article in the New Leader that stated that Soltera had received Spencer Planning Board permission to build the solar farm at the abbey. This is the Net Metering program that North Brookfield has signed on with. The plan is that when it is up and running, town departments will save between 25 & 30 % on their electric bills. For the water department that could mean \$9,000 or \$10,000.

Mr. Jones started flushing on September 15, 2014. This flushing should be completed by October 10, 2014. Due to the lack of a Plant Operator Mr. Jones has cut down on the amount of flushing that is usually done, concentrating mainly on the dead end mains.

One new service line was tapped onto North Brookfield's water line main at 76 Old East Brookfield Rd. The owner of the property is Michael Toomey.

Demand notices went out on Monday September 15, 2014. Shutoff notices were mailed out on Wednesday October 1, 2014. Multifamily residences shut off notices were posted on Monday October 6, 2014. Shutoff for non-payments will begin on Monday, October 20, 2014.

The Community Development Action Committee will be holding a public hearing for the East Side Project on Thursday October 9, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Senior Center in North Brookfield. This is for the grant money that is going towards planning for infrastructure improvements in the northeast section of the downtown area.

At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 16, 2014 that Mr. Jones and Mr. Thomasian attended Mr. Thomasian brought up the antenna issue. Jim Wilson, who was also at the meeting, was there to describe what was wanted and he brought a sample contract that was given to the Board of Selectmen. They asked him to write up a proposal for the project. Mr. Wilson has since done this, dropped the proposal off with the North Brookfield Water Department and Mr. Jones has brought it to the Board of Selectmen.

Electric prices are said to be headed up in the near future and the North Brookfield Water Department's contract with Veridian is up in November 2014. The Water Department has met with Veridian regarding the next contract and the best offer the Department could get is \$0.1059

per kilowatt for three years. Currently the Water Department is paying \$0.0649. That will be a 63% increase in the electrical costs. The North Brookfield Water Department has received quotes from four other companies that were all more expensive. The North Brookfield Sewer Department, Water Department and the town all have agreed to go with this three year contract with Veridian.

### **New Business**

On October 2, 2014 Mr. Jones received an email from Naomi Stetson of 350 North Main Street asking the Water Department to not shut her water off on October 20, 2014 due to personal reasons. After shut off notices are mailed it is up to the Chairman of the Water Commissioner's, John Thomasian, to set up any payment plans that are requested by residents. Mr. Thomasian said that he would email Ms. Stetson and set up a payment plan with her as follows, Ms. Stetson needs to pay \$100.00 by October 20, 2014 and \$80.00 per month until balance is paid in full.

Kristen Thacker, Administrative Assistant received a phone call on Monday October 6, 2014 from Kara Anderson requesting to set up a payment plan for her water bill. Mr. Thomasian set up a plan as follows; Ms. Anderson will pay \$500.00 by October 20, 2014, \$400.00 by November 20, 2014 and then the balance of the bill, \$423.70 by December, 20, 2014. Mr. Thomasian asked Ms. Thacker to call Ms. Anderson and present the payment plan to her. Ms. Thacker called Ms. Anderson on Tuesday October 7, 2014 and explained the arrangements to Ms. Anderson. Ms. Anderson agreed to the payment plan.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40PM

Respectfully Submitted

Kristen Thacker-Administrative Assistant