

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners
Monday, June 10, 2013
North Brookfield Water Treatment Facility
14 Bell Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Present: James Kularski, Tim Nason, John Thomasian, Stephen Jones and Shiela LeBlanc –
Water Superintendent

Absent: None

Guests: None

Meeting Opened: 6:00 PM

1. **Mr. Kularski made and Mr. Thomasian seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 as written. So voted.**
2. **Horse Pond Dam Update** - Mrs. LeBlanc sent an email to William Salomaa, who works for the Office of Dam Safety, about the final Certificate of Completion. A few days later we received the certificate from Karen Fung of Lenard Engineering. That is the final piece for the Horse Pond Dam repair project. Mrs. LeBlanc will now register both certificates with the deed.

Jeff Morrison of Morrison Fence has set a tentative date of June 20th to complete the walkway and spillway fencing. Mr. Jones thinks that he is planning to try and get it done all in one day.

3. **North Brookfield Youth Center Road Race** – The Board reviewed the letter from the North Brookfield Youth Center to open the gates at the ponds.

Mr. Kularski made and Mr. Nason seconded a motion to approve the request to allow the North Brookfield Youth Center to conduct their road race through the pond area thus distributing a key to open the gates to Charlie Haddock. So voted.

4. **Buried no longer** – Mr. Jones reviewed “Buried No Longer” a report prepared by the American Water Works Association detailing how much of the country’s drinking water infrastructure is nearing the end of its lifespan. We have included copies of the report in the commissioners’ packets. Restoring existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives and expanding them to serve a growing population will cost at least \$1 trillion over the next 25 years if the United States is to maintain current levels of water service. Delaying the investment will result in degrading water service, increasing water service disruptions and increasing expenditures for emergency repairs. Ultimately the country will have to face the need to “catch up” with past deferred investments and the more it is delayed the costlier the job will be.

This is especially true in North Brookfield. Although some water mains were replaced at the end of the last century and the beginning of this one, we haven’t had the funds to replace a water main since 2003. There are no grants out there for water main replacements; the only way to

pay for pipe replacement is through borrowing. All the original water pipe that was installed in 1896 is still in the ground, over 113 years old. As old as this pipe is, it is a better quality pipe than the pipe that was installed between 1940 and the 1960s. This pipe is degrading quickly and is the source of most of our water breaks in any given year. This will continue to occur as time goes by and will start to increase at some point.

Mr. Jones stated that when the treatment plant is finally paid off in 2020 it would behoove the town to use these funds to begin the investment needed in its drinking water infrastructure.

5. **Reconvened Annual Town Meeting – June 21, 2013** – Mr. Jones attended the first part of the Annual Town meeting on May 10. The one Water Department article on the warrant passed without any questions. The second part of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on June 21st and will include the budgets. We also have an article on the warrant for the special town meeting to transfer money into the Overtime account if needed.

Mr. Jones noted that he will go to the meeting but a Commissioner should be there. Mr. Nason explained that he will be away on vacation. Mr. Thomasian is not sure if he will be there. He will check his schedule. Mr. Kularski will be late, could be after 8:00 before he gets there. We are usually at the end of the warrant so he may be able to make it for that article.

6. **Superintendent Report – Hydrant flushing** ended on May 17th when we coordinated with East Brookfield to flush the interconnection between the two systems.

Rural 11 –Mr. Jones attended another meeting on the Rural 11 Prioritization Project, held during a Board of Selectmen's meeting in May. They are narrowing down the prioritization locations and projects. They have included drinking water infrastructure and he reminded them of adding the Horse Pond Watershed to the Prioritization list. He included the meeting handout in your packet. There will be one more meeting of all 11 towns on June 26.

The **Ford F 350** utility truck had body work done on the driver's side rear cab area at Country Auto. The bottom corner of the cab had started rusting out. This truck is now over 13 years old.

Pillsbury Funeral Home conducted the tests on the new backflow devices on the aspirator line as required. The devices passed and will now be included in the semiannual testing schedule.

Shut offs for nonpayment occurred on May 13th. Eleven services were shut off for non-payment, seven paid and were turned back on and four empty houses remain off. There are 54 services off at this time, 39 are houses or businesses and the rest are barns or unused services. There are 2 services at Edna Circle that have not paid but we cannot shut them off due to the way the water lines were originally installed. Turning the service off shuts off the water for all four units in the building, so we probably won't be collecting this money. A lien will be placed on the units, but we won't see this money until the unit is sold. Mr. Kularski asked if the amount

owed was substantial. Mrs. LeBlanc informed him that one is about \$300 but the other one is close to \$900.00. She explained that the lien will appear on their tax bill that will be mailed in December. She has sent them notification of the lien being placed on the property.

Otherwise, most of the last month was spent trying to keep up with the mowing we do and running the plant.

Mr. Nason asked how the truck condition is. Mr. Jones stated that we can keep it going but we will need to be looking at new ones. The F-350 has 90,000 miles on it but the rusting is the problem and the F-150 is from 2004 and has higher mileage.

Mr. Nason also informed Mr. Jones that he was contacted by Bob Laflamme on behalf of the Boy Scouts to use a hydrant for a camp out in the apple orchard. Mr. Nason said he hates to deny the boy scouts but he said no and suggested that they borrow the Indian tanks from the Fire Department and carry water in.

7. **New Business** - Last Thursday Mr. Jones received a letter from DEP regarding Emergency Water sources such as Doane Pond. They have changed the regulations for Emergency Water Sources. If we want to leave it as an emergency source we will need to maintain the intake apparatus with a maintenance plan. This plan and the maintenance will be reviewed in the next sanitary survey. At this time we flush the intake twice a year when we flush the town. The problem is Mr. Jones has no idea where the intake is for Doane Pond.

The other choice would be to abandon the source in which case we would apply to DEP and if approved, we would have to physically disconnect Doane Pond from the system. They would like our reply by the end of the month. It cost \$60.00 to abandon it.

Mr. Jones suggested that we fill out the form and leave it as an Emergency source at this time. The next sanitary survey is scheduled for 2015 so before this time we would have to do some investigations on the intake at Doane Pond and make a decision on whether to leave it as an Emergency source or abandon it. If we leave it as emergency source we may have to fix the intake.

Mr. Thomasian stated that we eventually need to repair the dam; if we breach the dam we would not need the intake. Mr. Jones stated that is a decision that will need to be made.

Mr. Nason stated that maybe we could ask the Firemen to dive to find it. Mr. Jones stated that we already use them to clean the intake at Horse Pond and we pay them. He would have no problem with that.

Mr. Kularski stated that on a calm day maybe we could flush and see if we can tell by the ripples in the water and get an idea where it is.

Mr. Jones stated that he will file that paperwork for now and we can look at this again.

Meeting closed: 6:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shiela LeBlanc,

Recording Secretary