

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners
Monday February 22, 2015
Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility
14 Bell Hill Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535**

Present: **James Kularski, Tim Nason, Richard Kennan and
Kristen Thacker, Administrative Assistant**

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Review and approve the minutes

Mr. Nason made a motion and Mr. Kularski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Board of Water Commissioners meeting. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

Review and approve the Preliminary FY2017 Budget

Mr. Kennan stated that the FY2017 budget had increased \$1400.00 (fourteen hundred) from last year's FY2016 budget. Mr. Kennan stated that he moved monies from a couple different accounts to be able to increase the North Brookfield Water Department's "System Improvement" account. Mr. Kennan stated that the "System Improvement" account has increased by \$6000.00 (six thousand). Mr. Kennan stated the reason for this increase is due to the ageing infrastructure of the North Brookfield Water Department's water lines and the number of water breaks the department has endured this year. Mr. Kennan stated that one of the accounts he cut was the "vehicle" account, reason being, the North Brookfield Water Department purchased a new F250 pick-up truck in late 2015. Mr. Nason made a motion and Mr. Kularski seconded the motion to accept the preliminary FY2017 budget in the amount of \$87994.00. The vote was unanimous.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Kennan stated that the North Brookfield Water Department had a Milton Cat technician come out to look at the generator. The tech concluded that the generator was running okay and there were no major problems.

Mr. Kennan stated that he was going to attend a finance committee meeting tomorrow (Tuesday February 23, 2016). Mr. Kennan stated that he was asked by the finance committee a few months ago if he would like to attend a meeting and voice any concerns that he may have.

Mr. Kennan stated that the North Brookfield Water Department responded to five (5) service leaks over the past two weeks due to the extremely cold weather.

Mr. Kennan stated that the new test lab, Net Lab that the North Brookfield Water Department changed over to, as of January 1, 2016 seems to be working out good. Mr. Kennan stated that Net Lab has done two months of samples and everything seems to be running smoothly. Mr. Kennan stated that he believes that the North Brookfield Water Department made a good decision in changing companies.

Mr. Kennan stated that he has been in contact with Trish Miller from Toomey Water regarding all the ERT's in town. An ERT is the radio transmitter that allows the North Brookfield Water Department to read the meters when it is time for billing. Mr. Kennan stated that he called Ms. Miller asking about the life span and guarantee of the said ERT's. Ms. Miller stated that the ERT's are/were guaranteed for ten (ten) years. Mr. Kennan stated that most ERT's in town are thirteen (13) years old. Mr. Kennan stated that Ms. Miller was going to work on a quote for the North Brookfield Water Department for new ERT's for the town residents. Mr. Kennan stated that his concern was that all the older ERT's were all going to go at once.

Mr. Kennan stated the North Brookfield Water Department had received the quote for the dam inspection, phase one (1) from Lenard Engineering in the amount of \$3500.00. This is an inspection of the dam at Horse Pond that happens every few years. Mr. Kularski recommended that the North Brookfield Water Department send the contract down to the Board of Selectmen for approval of the said inspection of the dam. Mr. Kularski and Mr. Kennan stated that the monies for the inspection were included in the FY2017 budget.

Mr. Kennan stated that the North Brookfield Water Department had received the contract from Aquatic Control for the first treatment of Horse Pond, option B, copper sulfate. Mr. Kennan stated that this is a treatment that is done two (2) times each year and this is the first treatment. Mr. Kularski made a motion to send the contract down to the Board of Selectmen to review and approve the Aquatic Control contract. Mr. Nason seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kennan stated that in the next few months he would like the Board of Water Commissioner to think about and discuss the minimum user fee. Mr. Kennan stated that he would like to see the minimum fee to be raised from \$45.00 for the first 1-5,000 gallons to be raised to \$50.00. Mr. Kennan stated that the reason for this increase is due to the number of customer in town that use more than 5,000 gallons of water and also, this fee has remained the same for several years.

Mr. Kennan stated that Mrs. Daley from 8 West Brookfield stated that her bill was too low. Mrs. Daley stated to Mrs. Thacker that she thought something may be wrong due to the fact that they had never had a bill that was less than \$300.00 in the 10+ years that they had lived there. Mr. Thacker set up an appointment with Mrs. Daley to have Mr. Connolly go to the home and check the meter and the ERT. Mr. Connolly's findings were that the meter had stopped working. Mr. Connolly replaced the broken meter and went back a few days later to read the new meter to be

sure it was working correctly. It was found by Mr. Connolly that the new meter was working correctly. Mr. Kularski, Mr. Nason and Mr. Kennan talked and believe there is no way to accurately bill Mrs. Daley and due to her honesty in calling Mrs. Thacker the bill for 8 West Brookfield Road will remain at the \$45.00 and pick up at the next billing in July for 2016 with the new meter installed.

New Business

No new business

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Thacker-Administrative Assistant