

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Monday, July 8, 2013

North Brookfield Water Treatment Facility

14 Bell Road

North Brookfield, MA 01535

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

Absent: None

Guests: None

Meeting opened: 6:05 PM

1. Mr. Kularski made and Mr. Thomasian seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2013 as written. So voted.
2. **Horse Pond Dam Update** – Mr. Jones informed the Board that Mrs. LeBlanc sent in the Certificate of Completion from the Office of Dam Safety and the Certificate of Completion from the Conservation Committee to the Worcester District Registry of Deeds to be attached to the deed for the Horse Pond Dam. We received confirmation from them today that they received the certificates and that we (she) will now have to fill out WPA Form 8B and send it to the Conservation Committee. This notifies the Conservation Commission that the Certificate of Completion has been sent to the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Jones thinks that this is the last thing that needed to be completed.

Morrison Fence has installed the fencing on the spillway and the walkway at the Horse Pond Dam that the board requested at the price quoted. Mr. Kularski noted that he thought they did a real nice job and it looks good. It was top quality very rugged and heavy duty.

3. **Superintendent Report - Annual Town Meeting** – Mr. Jones informed the Board that he attended the Annual Town Meeting on June 21st. The article on the special town meeting preceding the regular meeting was passed over as we requested. We have not had any major overtime since the last water main break on Waite Corner Road. The budget passed unanimously during the regular meeting.

Budget 2013 – Mrs. LeBlanc and Mr. Jones have been working together to find and transfer any unspent money in the FY13 budget to the Materials and Supplies line item so it can be used to purchase no lead brass fittings and meters. As he has mentioned

before, the federal government has lowered the amount of lead that can be used in brass. We were informed of this in 2011 and it meant that we would have to completely turn over our inventory of brass fittings and meters by January of 2014. We started this process back in 2012 and have continued it through the last fiscal year. In June we purchased enough no lead meters to have spares ready to go when needed at a cost of approximately \$3,800.00. The spare meters we have now will be illegal after January. We have spent approximately \$4,000.00 more on no lead brass fittings so far. His original estimate to replace everything we had was approximately \$12,000.00 which would leave \$4,200.00 left to go.

Water Issues -The large amount of rain that we have received has caused problems in treating the water from the reservoir. Every depression in the watershed is full of water which is causing the vegetation to rot, releasing color, turbidity, tastes and odors. It's like the watershed has become a large beaver pond with all the problem's associated with that. We have started flushing dead end mains to alleviate any water quality problems and he called Lycott Environmental to treat the reservoir for excess algae last Wednesday.

Semi- annual meter reading took place last week. Bills will be going out by the end of the month. We are having trouble with the handheld meter reader that we purchased last fall at a cost of \$5,500.00. We have sent it back twice to be fixed; they sent us a loaner which has worked well until last week when it stopped working well. They have sent us a second loaner and are looking into sending us a replacement unit for our original purchase.

Annual maintenance of the pressure regulating valve on the Old East Brookfield Road took place on June 13th. Ross Valve dismantled and cleaned the valves and replaced all three pilot valves.

Transfer Pumps - We have purchased the transfer pumps needed to finish the project of switching the disinfection process from MIOX to Sodium Hypochlorite. Although the chemical switch started in 2009, we have been making do with equipment that was set up for the MIOX system. We have been making changes as we could afford them and when we had the time. Installing the correct transfer pumps is the last part of the project. We now have the parts and they will be installed as we can find the time.

Leak Detection – Mr. Jones has talked to Carl Sopper of Water & Waste Pipe Testing Inc., regarding the leak detection survey he will be doing for us this fiscal year. We have set up some possible dates.

Mowing - Once again we have spent a considerable time mowing this past month what with all the rain keeping the grass growing.

Warrant Signatures – Mrs. LeBlanc has asked Mr. Jones to ask you to show up for signatures on Friday the 12th. This is for the warrant for any bills left to be paid out of the FY13 budget.

Mr. Nason questioned what we do with the old brass that we can no longer use. Mr. Jones informed him that we will take it down to Dupres.

4. **New Business** – Mr. Kularski noted that he will be on vacation from August 1 -14 so he will not be here for the next meeting, he will be out of state. He also asked if we have heard anything on the forestry. Mr. Jones has not heard anything regarding the start of the clearing near the Pump Station.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shiela LeBlanc
Recording Secretary