

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners  
Monday, February 11, 2019  
Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility  
14 Bell Hill Road  
North Brookfield, MA 01535**

**Present:**      **Jim Kularski, Tim Nason, Shiela LeBlanc, 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 and Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2019 Board of Water Commissioners meeting. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

**Abatement Request**

- **14 Park Street** - An abatement request was submitted by Gary and Elizabeth Fuller of 14 Park Street. The property in question required more research to determine whether or not an abatement had been previously given to this address. This abatement request will be tabled until our next BOWC Meeting.

**FY2020 Budget**

- The BOWC reviewed and discussed the proposed FY2020 Budget. Upon review, Mrs. LeBlanc made a motion to amend the budgeted System improvement amount from \$24,094 to \$30,000. Mr. Nason seconded that motion. The vote to accept this amended amount was unanimous.

**Superintendent Report**

- **Service leak repair** – Mr. Kennan informed the Board of a large service leak on 31 Bates Street. This was called in on a Saturday as water was in the road. Ed Thibeault was called in for the repair.

- **Second Billing Cycle** – The second billing cycle for FY2019 is complete. There were a few very large bills again, one being Urban League a/k/a Camp Atwater. Mr. Kennan will discuss in new business the importance of a new metering system.
- **DEP Letter** – Mr. Kennan has heard back from DEP in regards to the plant status increase from a level 2 status to a 3. He received a call from Margo Webber stating at this time the Plant will be kept at a level 2 and a letter will be mailed to us confirming this decision. They are basing this on the daily average yield allowed to be drawn from Horse Pond.
- **Mendela Property**- Mr. Kennan has been in touch with APR regarding the Mendela property. If the land can't be purchased then Mr. Kennan would like to move forward with changing the bylaws in town to eliminate any activity in the Zone A area. This is DEP's recommendation as they require us to enforce at a local level.
- **Tree Removal**- A tree was removed from the Sokol property by Mr. Kennan and the water operators. This was decided after months of the tree warden not responding to Mr. Kennan's calls. The Selectmen were notified that this has been taken care of.
- **MRWA** – The MRWA has been helping the Water Department in locating a leak around the area of 50 Ward Street. The water is not surfacing at this time, however Mr. Kennan is preparing for excavation with Ed Thibeault.
- **Butterfly Valve**- A 4" butterfly valve for recycle has been ordered from Flow Elements. The part will be installed by Mr. Kennan and our water operators.

## **New Business**

- **New Meter System** – Mr. Kennan informed the Board that he would like to bring in Stiles for a presentation on a new metering system. The current system is outdated and leaves too much room for large bills as we only read meters every 6 months. A new system would identify a leak right away and give us the opportunity to notify the homeowner if and when a leak does occur. This technology would cut back the amount of abatements due to unknown leaks, breaks, etc.
- **Source Water Protection Act** – Mr. Kennan discussed implementing the Source Water Protection Act. He would like to see the town vote on this at a town meeting. The Board agreed to start the process of protecting the town's water source. Mr. Kennan will start by contacting the appropriate local boards and go from there.

- **Timeframe for Retirement** – Mr. Kennan informed the Board of his intent to retire in October 2020. There is no set date yet as he has a few projects he'd like to complete before he retires.
- **Mr. Kularski** – Mr. Kularski, our Chairman informed the Board that he will not seek the position of Water Commissioner when his term ends in April. He will be sorely missed as he was a huge asset to our Department!

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Valeri  
Administrative Assistant