

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners
Monday, September 13, 2021
Bell Hill Water Treatment Facility
14 Bell Hill Road
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Present: Tim Nason, Scott Bombard, James Grace, Jamie Flamand and Kelly Valeri

Absent: None

The meeting opened @ 6:02 PM

Review and approve the minutes

Mr. Nason made a motion to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes as written. Mr. Bombard seconded the motion. The vote to accept these minutes was unanimous.

Chairman Letter

Mr. Nason read a letter that was mailed to him regarding the excellent job done by Jamie Flamand, our Water Superintendent, during the Pressure reducing valve replacement on Old East Brookfield Rd in August. The letter was written and sent by Robert and Deborah Wicks and they commended Jamie for a job well done during the lengthy process. Jamie's communication and professionalism throughout the project was very much appreciated by them.

Superintendent Report

Pressure Reducing Valve Pit – The pressure reducing valve project is now complete. The new valve is working excellent with no issues.

Meter installation – Meter installation is ongoing. There are approximately 328 new Badger meters installed. These new meters and software are proving to be a huge asset to the water department as well the water users that have them installed.

Water Billing – Water demands have been issued and are due September 22nd. A shut off date is TBD.

Water Main Break – There was a water main break on Bullard Rd. July 27th. The break was called in around 8:00 PM. Mr. Flamand and Mr. Peterson worked on site and had the break fixed by 5:00 AM.

Brown Water – Mr. Flamand informed the board of brown/yellow water complaints from water customers. He is diligently working to rectify the issue. Hydrant flushing has been ongoing and will continue until the water issue is resolved.

Hydrant Flushing - Fire Hydrants will be flushed the first 3 weeks in October. This is the time hydrants are normally flushed. This is in addition to the previous flushing for discoloration of the water. The Water department has been actively flushing to help resolve the issue.

Service Repair – Ed Thibeault was called to help Mr. Flamand with a service repair on 158 Oakham Rd. The service let go during flushing and was determined to have been leaking for quite a while.

First Net Cell Phones – First Net reached out to the Water Department regarding a new phone plan for First responders and municipal employees. Mr. Flamand spoke with the Rep and changed from AT&T Cellular phones over to First Net Cellular service. The plan offers a savings of around \$50 per month.

New Business

Water and Wetland Pond Treatment Co.– Mr. Flamand discussed with the Board the option of having a water analysis done on Horse Pond. A test like this hasn't been done in many years and would be beneficial to the treatment of the Pond. All board members were in agreeance that the test would be great to have done.

New Phone Options – The BOWC's were made aware of the ongoing issue with the new TPX phones that were installed recently. The new phone system does not work well with the current DSL line at the water department. This makes it extremely difficult to perform daily duties of managing and monitoring the Water Department. Options are now being discussed to resolve this issue in a timely manner.

Mr. Nason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bombard seconded. The vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:46 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Valeri
Administrative Assistant