

Minutes of the Sept. 6, 2017 Board of Water/Sewer Commissioner's Meeting

Present: Jay Spahl, Fred Bazinet, Tom Fournier, Scott Zajkowki, Scott Piekarczyk, John Meehan, Lori Smith

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. First item on the agenda was the acceptance of the August 2, 2017 minutes. Scott P. made a motion to accept the August 2, 2017 minutes, Fred B. seconded and all were in favor. The minutes were unanimously accepted as read.

The Dancers Sole studio has submitted a letter requesting permission to hold a car wash at the Dudley Fire Dept. on Saturday, Sept. 15th. After a brief discussion, Scott Z. made a motion to approve the car wash request for Saturday, Sept. 15th from 8:30 – 1:30 pm at the Dudley Fire Station, with a rain date of Sept. 23rd for The Dancers Sole contingent upon the approval by the Dudley Fire Department, Scott P. seconded, all in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The board will require that they use biodegradable soap.

Diane Anderson of 14 Raymond St. came before the board to discuss water pressure concerns at her property. She stated that she has had water pressure issues for the past 20 years in which she has lived at the property. Her water pressure ranges from 20 – 22 lbs, which is within the acceptable limits. In the past, when she has called the office it was suggested that she purchase a booster pump to increase her pressure. Diane stated that she feels that the town should be providing this for her. The board explained that the water is pumped from Tanyard Road to the water tank and then the system is gravity fed from there and the water pressure received is dependent upon the elevations of the houses in relation to the water tank. It was stated that there are other areas in town such as Airport Road, Ash Lane, Lyons Road, etc. where the water pressure is about the same as in her neighborhood and the individual homeowners have installed booster pumps to increase their pressure. It was mentioned that at certain times, like when the water levels in the tank drops and then is brought up to the appropriate level (this is needed to keep the water moving and clean), the water pressure may go below the 20 lbs. for a brief period of time. Tom F. asked if we could monitor Diane's water pressure gauge for a period of time to record her water pressure. John will monitor it three times a week for a period of month.

Next the board reviewed the outstanding debt for the Water and Sewer Dept. Scott P. questioned the \$60,000 remaining for the Phase I sewer betterment. He wanted to know if this money was collected from the betterments already or does a portion of this money belong to all of the sewer users, is there money in escrow to cover this? It was suggested that Scott P. stop by the Town Hall on a Thursday evening and speak with the Treasurer on this.

Upcoming capital expense items: After a brief discussion, the board stated that they would need to come up with a contingency plan for the next 5 years. John mentioned that he already had several items which they will need within the next several years, such as a new truck, camera, sewer station upgrades, etc. John will prepare a complete list for the next meeting for the board to discuss and prioritize. The Conant Ave/Patterson Ave pump chamber was discussed. It has been in operation since approx. 1948/1952 and needs to be replaced. This would be a huge cost for a minimal amount of users

on these streets. The board requested of John that when the work begins on Lakeview Ave he bring them over to Pattison/Conant Ave. to view and give their feedback.

John provided the Water/Sewer Superintendent Report:

Water Dept.:

Meter repair list has been completed. Water and Sewer invoices have been sent out with very few calls. Repaired leak on West St. and on Day Lane (Sunnyside Rd) and one repair on customer side. Amorello ground Mill St. and part of Pine St. We raised all of the sewer manholes. They paved Mill St. and Pine St. and also the sidewalks. Put a 1' riser on the hydrant on Second Ave. There was a problem with the standpipe on Dresser Hill Rd. The gauge was reading that it had 44.5' of water in the tank when it actually only had 10' of water when we looked inside the tank. LeFleur came and ordered new gauge. We had this all set for the long weekend. Brian has finished school and will be taking D1 test this month.

Sewer Dept.:

Pulled pumps on Lawrence Rd. for the 2nd time in three weeks as there was a rag in the pumps. We distributed flyers educating homeowners about what can and cannot be flushed. Pulled pumps on Pondview Ave and had to get Webster Sewer Dept. truck. Called Methuen and they will be here by the end of the month to work on the stations. Mike has been working with the Water Dept. on meter repair list and the Mill St. project most of the month (hours are being tracked). Over the long weekend the pump station on Patterson Ave needed repairs, the Solenoid switch went, crack in one of the fittings, spark plug had to be cleaned and check valve was stuck. The emergency brake cable broke on the Sewer Dept. truck and there was also a hole in the brake line. The truck was towed and is being repaired.

The board next discussed sending a letter to the Town Administrator requesting to fill the open Asst. Plant Manger position. It is our understanding that the person in question has shown the Town Administrator a letter from his doctor saying that he cannot come back to the Sewer Dept. because of health restrictions. Someone in-house is interested in the Asst. Plant Manager position and has been doing it for the past 15 months. We will try to find the job description in the union contract. We would be looking to fill a laborer position. John would like to require that this person be trained on the Water Dept. side as well so that they could take shifts on the weekend and for emergencies. We would need to follow the union rules in filling positions. The board agreed to send the letter that was drafted to the Town Administrator in order to start this process.

Scott Z. made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, Scott P. seconded, all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm.