

WEST NEWBURY BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2018  
9:00 A.M. WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Commissioners present: Robert Janes, Chair, Richard Cushing  
Mike Gootée, Water Superintendant and Jodi Bertrand, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order at 9:04.

Gootée and Commissioners went to the Wellfield to meet with West Newbury and Newburyport town officials to review proposed Plummer Spring Bridge design elevation and dam at the Lower Artichoke Reservoir. They continued the meeting when they returned to the Water Department office.

Reviewed correspondence, balances and meeting minutes from November 13<sup>th</sup>. Changes to the minutes will be made, and then looked at by the Commissioners at the January monthly meeting.

At 11:20 Angus Jennings, Town Manager came in the office to give an update on Indirect Cost and financial policies being updated. Jennings explained that the budget for FY-2020 is due January 18<sup>th</sup> and Capital Improvements are due January 11<sup>th</sup>. He is hoping to get the budget package sent out next week. Jennings also explained that at a recent meeting with FinCom and Selectmen he mentioned that the Water Revenue is only enough to fund the operating budget and limited Capital Improvements/upgrades. He expressed that they looked shocked to find this out. Gootée explained to Jennings that they shouldn't have been shocked at all to here that because he and the Water Commissioners have stressed that point at all the FinCom meetings for many years and also explained that West Newbury has one of the highest water rates per capita in the state because they only have about one thousand households paying all of the water bills. That includes budgets, capital projects and in-direct cost to the town. Jennings left at 12:38.

**Brake Hill Water Tank:** Project bids will be opened by the Town Clerk on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

**Drakes Landing-** No new updates

**Bedrock Well Upgrade:** No new updates

**Subdivision (Neve) off Sullivan's Court:** 9 Sullivan's Court sold, no further updates

**FY-2020 Budget:** Gootée went over the four Indirect Cost options with the Water Commissioner's that Jennings supplied him. Once Jennings and the Commissioner's decide which option will be used he will be updating the Water Departments future costs. Gootée also contacted Doug Gardner, Pioneer Consultants to see what he thought about the options for figuring costs to the Town. Gardner agreed that option #3 was how we have been calculating in the past and should stay using this formula and definitely not using option #4. Gootée plans to submit an article placeholder for the new Chemical Building and possibly one for the proposed Brake Hill Tank depending what happens at the bid opening on December 13th.

**Other Matters:**

- Gootée said we will set up another meeting to review the FY-2020 budget. Janes has an appointment in the morning of our scheduled monthly meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> so we will meet at 1:00 P.M. The Town Manager and personnel from Tata and Howard plan to attend the meeting to review the Water Department budget and capital projects.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40



Jodi Bertrand  
Administrative Assistant