

WEST NEWBURY BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AUGUST 10, 2023
9:00 A.M. WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Commissioners present: Bob Janes, Chair and Jack Duggan
Mark Marlowe Superintendent and Jodi Bertrand, Administrative Assistant
Rob Phillips, Finance Committee
Chris Wild, Select Board

Meeting called to order at 9:00.

Angus Jennings, Town Manager 9:05

Rick Parker, Select Board 9:30

Review balances, correspondence and draft minutes from July 20th.
(Executive session minutes from May 5th and August 17th being held)

Tata & Howard Draft Rate Study and Distribution Study: Janes noted that some of the locations were off as well as hydrants. Jennings found a few mistypes and estimated cost for Church and Prospect Street last year, in the April 4th email from T& H had changed, it was 3.2 million and now had a figure of 3.5 million which affects the loan that was approved at. Jennings said it would be best to bring this to this Fall Town Meeting. Janes and Marlowe will sit with Jennings to get the wordage correct and easy for residents to understand. Jennings was intrigued as to the model with GIS and wonder if Tata & Howard would have a workshop/presentation to show how to use it. Duggan noted pg. 13 under Fire Flows, 34 (not 36) Meeting House had lowest pressure but it does not have any recommendations as what to do about it. Marlowe explained that it is there mostly for air release and a pump truck would be used for pressure.

Pipestave Tank Rehab Update- Marlowe said they have to re-paint a few spots that were fixed but because of humidity they had to wait to touch up.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding & Wendy Reed E-mail - Jennings went over how the MOU was drafted. After it was pointed out by Janes at the August 7th Select Board Meeting on some items that Janes thought should not be included at all, Jennings agreed and they updated it. Jennings sent around a marked-up copy with changes and deleted items, also a clean updated copy for the Board to look over. Jennings also suggested having a combined meeting to do all changes and sign off on the MOU to get things rolling and bills can be processed.

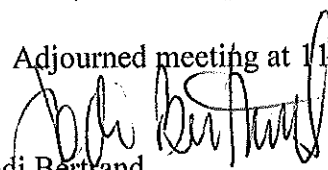
Water Rates- Janes discussed having a public meeting to discuss looking for water source and being self-sufficient or relying on Newburyport Water. Chris Wild suggested at this Fall Meeting letting residents know how important and financially drastic either scenario can be.

Baileys Lane/River Road- Janes reiterated to everyone in the meeting that at our last meeting the Board voted to use funds from Extraordinary Unforeseen to do testing/drilling. Discussions regarding a few other sites to investigate continued.

Other Matters:

- FY-24 Operating Budget discussed separate line items; where increases were made.
- FY-23 Revenue Janes would like to go through the Budget and see which line items can be lowered to be able to get DOR to approve the current budget. Jennings suggested making it an even 1 million, would be likely to be approved. If the budget cannot be decreased then a transfer from Free Cash or Stabilization would need to be done.
- Lead and Copper study that DEP will be requiring, T&H will be looking for grant money.
- Backflow Testing charge increase? New technician with higher rate to Water Department. Janes said the next testing in December we should increase to match what we are being billed.
- August 29th, 1:30 Weston and Sampson meeting. Wednesday, August 16th 3:30 MEPA meeting. (Dole Place preliminary contract items)

Adjourned meeting at 11:00.



Jodi Bertrand
Administrative Assistant