

WEST NEWBURY BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2018
11:00 A.M. WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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

Meeting called to order at 11:04

Angus Jennings attended the meeting to talk to Gootée and Commissioners about the Capital Plan.

Gootée had a packet prepared with Capital Plan information for everyone's review.

Angus Jennings left the meeting at 11:48.

Reviewed correspondence, balances and meeting minutes from October 9th. Janes moved to approve minutes, unanimous.

Meter and Chemical Injection Building / Bedrock Well Upgrade: On November 1st the bids were opened for the construction of the project. Three bids were received and all three were much higher than what was suggested by the department's engineering firm (Tata and Howard) to be appropriate for the project. The bids were between \$200,000 and \$300,000 more than the appropriation.

Tata and Howard examined the bids received for the project to identify areas that deviated from the original estimate of probable construction cost. Tata & Howard keeps a data base of past and current project costs for use in estimating probable construction costs. They noted substantial cost increases over the last year. They have offices throughout New England and they noted costs have been consistently higher with different regions showing greater cost escalations. Some of the reasons for the escalation in cost according to contractors and suppliers are tariffs on steel and other construction materials, lack of available subcontractors due to heavy workload, abundance of general contractor work at this time and scaling of project size (projects under \$1,000,000). They identified four major areas where the bid cost have exceeded their estimates by a large margin. The areas and dollar amount in exceedance are: SCADA \$50,000, foundation \$58,000, electrical sub-bid \$55,000 and piping \$60,000. Additionally, the cost associated with the building exclusive of electric and HVAC costs are \$409 per square foot which is extremely high. The building is only 416 square feet (26' x 16').

Gootée thinks we should put a place holder in for the Spring Town Meeting to give us time to rethink the project with Tata and Howard.

Brake Hill Water Tank: The bids that are received for the construction of the new Brake Hill Storage Tank are scheduled to be opened by the Town Clerk on December 6th at 2:00 P.M.

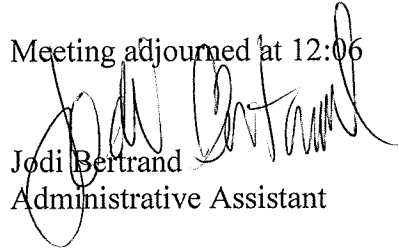
Drakes Landing: Gootée explained to the commissioners that all the water mains are in service and they will be required to pay the Systems Development Fees to get water supplied to each dwelling.

Subdivision (Neve) off Sullivan's Court: No new updates

Other Matters:

- Gootée said we will set up another meeting to do FY2020 budget.
- Bertrand will go back to information on credit card payments through City Systems that the Finance Department was using. Most people are setting up accounts through their bank for automated payments and even breaking up the payments to pay half one month and the balance when due.
- Gootée drafted a letter for the handful of residents that have not responded to past meter change out letters and this will be their final notice. They should call within 2 weeks to set up an appointment and then a red card will be sent for notice of shut off if they are not replaced.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06


Jodi Bertrand
Administrative Assistant