



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

500 PLYMOUTH STREET
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MEETING MINUTES March 9, 2021

5:00 p.m. Donald Bosworth made a motion to open the meeting.
Seconded by Daniel Bosworth

Motion Passes

Present: Richard Clark, Chairman
Daniel O. Bosworth, Jr., Clerk
Donald Bosworth
Keith Swanson, Superintendent
Kathleen O'Neil, Administrative Assistant

Meeting Minutes

Donald Bosworth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 9, 2021, as written.
Second by Daniel Bosworth.

Motion Passes

Union Negotiations

Keith said he is waiting to hear back from Charlie Seelig who is waiting to hear back from Town Counsel regarding the status of the dissolution of the proposed mixed unit union.

Request for Abatement – A2-1 Lydon Lane – Solimini

The meter for this property was given to Ti-Sales for accuracy testing. The results (attached) show that the meter is accurate. Dick updated Danny on this subject as he had to leave the last meeting before this matter was discussed. The Board unanimously agrees that the Solimini's are responsible for the full water bill. Keith will inform them personally. Keith also stated that Mr. Solimini, who attended the last meeting, has been encouraging people on Facebook to not pay their water bill.

Delinquent Accounts

Currently there are 230 water accounts outstanding totaling \$84,000. Keith and Kathy attended a roundtable zoom meeting with other towns regarding collections. Many municipalities are in the same situation and have hired additional employees to assist with payment plans and collections. Collections has been a major process and time consuming for all involved.

Keith showed the board a draft of a letter he would like them to send with a demand bill to urge prompt payment. The Board agreed and signed the letter.

Discussion – Highway Surveyor, Steve Hayward

Steve Hayward was in attendance to discuss several items (see attached list). Steve offered the Water Department the option to purchase his department's used 2004 John Deere backhoe for \$20,000. It has about 6,500 hours on it but runs fine. Steve does not need the answer tonight but would like to know within the next two weeks.

Donald Bosworth made a motion to purchase the 2004 John Deere 410 from the Highway Department for \$20,000. Second by Daniel Bosworth. *Motion Passes*

Steve asked the Board's thoughts on moving the Water Department out of the highway barn and into 500 Plymouth Street. Keith said he does not have a problem with it but wants to make sure outside necessities are met.

Steve asked what the Water Department's policy is on having their employees plow. Is it required of them? Dick asked if there is a problem that prompted this question. Steve replied yes; he cannot get anyone to show up to plow when needed. Dick said there is currently no policy in place that requires Water Department employees to plow and he is not sure a policy like that could be made.

Steve offered the Water Department an old stand-up mower at no cost though it will take \$300-\$400 to make it work properly. Dick said he accepts the offer and wants it stored at Richmond Park.

Halifax Meadows

The Board had a conference call with Alex Burghardt of Mercantile Property Management and Joanne Rosen, Board Member of Halifax Meadows to discuss the consistent discolored water issues for some units in the development.

Keith stated that this is an issue that needs prompt attention.

Joanne said the water lines in Halifax Meadows were last flushed in August of 2020. Prior to that it was a while back. Keith said that is no longer acceptable by today's standards. Keith recommends using bleeders more frequently. Joanne said Alex will schedule quarterly flushing.

There is an 8-inch line to the gazebo then 2 to 3-inch lines to each building that dead ends at each building so there is no circulation there. Keith said approximately 24 families feed off a 2-inch water line. That is a lot of pressure on the line during peak use times. Also, every line is a dead end that really need to be looped.

Alex said that she will have Al Wood send Keith a flushing report each time he flushes. Dick suggested that next time it is flushed, a member of the Water Department joins him to see how the process goes and to see if improvements can be made. Alex's biggest issue was that the original plan was forgotten. She feels it is time we get back to it.

Dick said it would be good if the management company lets their residents know that they are working with the Water Department to resolve this situation to everyone's satisfaction.

Halifax Mobile Home Estates

Dick asked if the Water Department flushes there anymore. Keith said no. Dick said hydrants are not getting flushed so we can't know if they all work. Keith said they were supposedly hired Hoadley to do their flushing. Dan said Keith should make them submit a report each time they flush. Better yet, all private properties like condos and mobile home estates should be required to.

Dick told Keith to get in touch with the office there and see what the situation is. Dick said Keith has every right to make sure the hydrants work.

Adjournment

6:13 p.m. Donald Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Daniel Bosworth

Motion Passes

Approved,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Bosworth", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

NOTE: NEXT MEETING DATE IS APRIL 13, 2021