



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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MEETING MINUTES December 14, 2021

5:00 p.m. Daniel Bosworth made a motion to open the meeting.
Seconded by Richard Clark *Motion Passes*

Present: Richard Clark, Chairman
Daniel O. Bosworth, Jr., Clerk
Bill Lindsay, Superintendent
Kathleen O'Neil, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Donald Bosworth, Commissioner

Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bosworth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 9, 2021, as written.
Second by Richard Clark. *Motion Passes*

Treatment Plant Upgrades

Robert Sims from Tata & Howard was in attendance. Richard recently sent Bill a cost assessment. Robert and co-worker, Paul Howard have been reviewing John Sullivan's numbers. They also reviewed a 2017 chart of numbers and the differentials on it are good. It was an unusual way to do it but it worked.

Currently, Sully has been backwashing one filter per day and not turning the chlorine off during the backwash. Robert's recommendation is to let Sully finish doing what he thinks is best and get things in order over the next two weeks. Bill added that they just finished recharging the filter and rebuilding the lagoon.

Dick suggested holding the chlorinated backwash in the lagoon for a few hours with the stream shut off. That way the chlorine has time to burn off before it hits the stream. Bill said he doesn't think we have the ability to shut it off before the stream. Dick said we can add a gate if we need to. Dick said it could be an option if the backwash without chlorine doesn't work.

Robert will revise the contract based on what was uncovered during the pilot study. Robert will tell EPA and DEP that the permanganate doesn't work. Dick fears that we will go back and forth with EPA and DEP for weeks and nothing will get done. Dick is anxious to get Phase I of the upgrade project started.

Dick would like answers and a timeline from Tata & Howard for the next meeting in January. Robert agreed.

Request for Abatement – 119 Franklin Street – Finn

Nora Finn was in attendance to formally request an abatement of her second half 2021 water bill. Ms. Finn feels that there has been an error on her usage. It is too high and not the amount that was actually used. Her main concern is the calculated daily usage. She feels there is no way her household of four uses 1,100 gallons of water per day. She feels something is not right. She is also upset that she is being charged a higher rate for 154,000 gallons.

Ms. Finn said the first two bills she received for this home were not very high though she used more water at that time because she was forced by the town to water her lawn for eleven days before she moved in. Ms. Finn stated that she also had to pay for two truckloads of water to fill her above-ground pool because the Building Inspector made her drain the pool the first time for an inspection. Ms. Finn stated that she is suing the town because of these requirements.

Bill has performed two data loggers over the past few weeks to see if he can determine when and how the usage occurred. Ms. Finn received the first data logger report and said the usage shown is not accurate and not possible. She said it rained all summer and did not have to water the lawn at all. She stated that the “nice part” of her lawn was done by GOD, not by watering.

Daniel stated that a staff member claimed he saw tripod sprinklers watering their lawn all summer. Ms. Finn said that is not possible, as she stated before, she did not water the lawn this summer.

Ms. Finn said she had a plumber come to the house on December 3rd to check for leaks. She said he “turned down the water in the kid’s toilet” but that’s it. The plumber said the toilet was overflowing a little but not enough to justify the usage shown on the bill. Dick said something changed because the usage suddenly went way down. Nora said nothing was changed. Dick stated that if she used the same plumber that installed the toilet to inspect it, he may be hesitant to admit that it could be installed incorrectly. Ms. Finn had her husband on speaker on her cell phone and he stated that the toilet overflowed a little and that the plumber fixed it around November 27th through December 4th.

Ms. Finn wants to know the source of the water going through her meter so she knows what she’s paying for. She said that her water usage was much higher in the summer of 2020 when she was required to water her lawn. She said she currently takes two baths a day due to working in the medical profession and having an autoimmune disease.

The Commission reviewed the bill, usage and two data logger reports. Dick said the usage was high during the summer months and the most recent fall/winter log shows the usage way down.

Dick and Dan agreed the water went through the meter and cannot see a legitimate reason to abate this bill. Dick offer Ms. Finn the option to set up a payment plan with the Administrative Assistant and to have the Water Department keep an eye on her usage. Kathy can email Ms. Finn the usage weekly. Ms. Finn agreed to the weekly usage reports but did not respond to the payment plan option.

BOWC Meeting
December 14, 2021
Page 3 of 3

Discussion – January Meeting Date

Kathy is having surgery on the scheduled date of our next meeting. She asked the Commissioners if they would like to change the date so that she can be in attendance. Dick said he would like to play it by ear.

Halifax Mobile Home Estates Billing

It was recently discovered that the Water Department is not charging the HMHE for their low flow usage. Kathy asked Dick if they should be billed for it. Dick said he always thought they were and that they should be. Kathy will call the former Water Department Administrative Assistant, Cathy Miller to ask her if she knows if this usage was ever charged.

Regardless of the answer, Dick said that moving forward, the HMHE should be charged for low flow usage beginning January 1, 2022.

Discussion – Annual Town Meeting Articles 2022

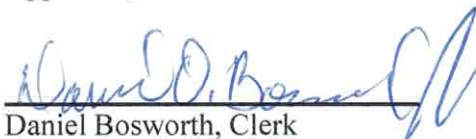
Kathy asked the Commissioners if they want to submit any articles for the next Annual Town Meeting. Dick said he would like to submit one for Phase II of the treatment plant upgrade project. The article can always be pulled if Phase I has not progressed enough to request funds Phase II.

Adjournment

6:35 p.m. Daniel Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Richard Clark

Motion Passes

Approved,


Daniel Bosworth, Clerk