



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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MEETING MINUTES March 10, 2020

6:36 p.m. Daniel Bosworth made a motion to open the meeting.
Seconded by Donald Bosworth

Motion Passes

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

Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bosworth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 11, 2020, as written.
Second by Donald Bosworth.

Motion Passes

Discussion – Purchase of Used Backhoe

The Highway Department is buying a new John Deere backhoe which gives the Water Department the opportunity to buy their old one. Keith has driven this equipment and said it's a good machine. He added it would be convenient for the Water Department to have access to whenever needed.

Dick asked where it would be stored. Keith said he didn't know. Dick stated he did not want it to sit outside all the time. Donny said to find out the price first. He believes between \$6,000-8,000 is reasonable. Keith will ask Steve for a price and the maintenance records.

Earlier this week, the Town Accountant, Sandy Nolan asked Keith Swanson to pay half of the purchase price for the new backhoe the Highway Department is buying. Keith said the Water Department doesn't need a backhoe often enough to justify paying half. Sandy stated that if Water buys the used equipment, she would like it written up as putting money towards the new backhoe.

Dick said to tell Steve Hayward that we are interested and get more information.

Discussion – Campus Committee

The town is forming a committee that will consist of town officials and residents to research building a combined Police and Fire Station on the property where the current Police Station is located. The Council on Aging would take over the existing police station. The town will likely need to buy some neighboring lots to make it work. Keith asked the Commission if anyone would like to volunteer for this committee. Each member said no.

Discussion – New Commercial Water Installations

Keith told the Commission that a new water service line needs to be installed for O'Reilly's Auto Parts on Plymouth Street between Nassrella's and Mutual Bank. It will need a ¾" or 1" line. There is curbing, drainage and a gas main in the area. For the Water Department to do the installation they will need to cut the curbing and black top. It will require lane closures and a two person police detail.

Keith does not feel comfortable shooting a torpedo with all the obstacles in the area, especially the gas main. Our charge for the installation is \$4,125 but Keith said that with the police coverage and pavement repairs, our cost could exceed that fee.

Keith would like to have O'Reilly's be responsible for the water line installation. Dick said he is not sure we can do that. Dick questioned who would do the work? Keith proposed changing our regulations so that all commercial buildings must install their own line.

Dick doesn't think we can pick and choose who we install a line for unless we change the regulations. He would like Keith to look into this further so that we don't get ourselves in trouble. Keith should come up with the wording for the new regulation and then run it by Town Counsel. This topic should be added to the next agenda.

Discussion – Halifax Mobile Home Estates

Kathy stated that the board for the HMHE is concerned about the timing of their bills which is resulting in the accrual of interest and penalties. Kathy asked the Commission if they see any problem changing their billing schedule from monthly to bi-annually like the rest of the town.

Dick questioned how the HMHE board will feel receiving a bill twice a year that could total \$50,000. Kathy said she didn't know but would caution them that this amount is very likely. The Commission said that this option can be proposed to the HMHE once it is confirmed that the billing software program can handle this change.

4:45 p.m. Kathy O'Neil left the meeting to allow the Commissioners and Superintendent to discuss the upcoming union negotiations. Keith Swanson will take over taking the meeting minutes duties.

A Motion was made by Donald Bosworth to close the regular meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss union negotiations at 4:48 p.m. Second by Daniel Bosworth. Motion passes.

A Motion was made at 5:50 p.m. to close Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. Second by Daniel Bosworth. Motion passes.

Adjournment

5:50 p.m. Donald Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Daniel Bosworth

Voted Unanimously

Approved,

David L. Brown

NOTE: NEXT MEETING DATE IS APRIL 14, 2020