



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

500 PLYMOUTH STREET
HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS 02338
TELEPHONE 781/293-1733
FAX 781/293-1776

MEETING MINUTES February 11, 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 December 8, 2020, as written.
Second by Richard Clark.

Motion Passes

Union Negotiations

Keith informed the board that more than 50% of the members of the proposed union have opted to drop out. This means that union negotiations cannot move forward at this time.

Request for Abatement – A2-11 Lydon Lane – Sims

Property owner, Kasey Sims was in attendance. In December 2020, Ms. Sims requested an abatement of her water bill due to consistently discolored water (photos were submitted – copies attached.) Ms. Sims said she regularly must run her water to get it to run clear. She also spends a lot of money on bottled water as she is afraid for her family to consume town water.

Keith asked Ms. Sims what the management company has been doing to address the situation. Ms. Sims said they installed bleeders which alleviated the problem for a few months. She also stated that they have blame the Water Department for the ongoing issues. Keith asked how often they use the bleeders? Ms. Sims did not know. Keith would like a strict flushing schedule put in place as well as a 2" hydrant. Dick said that since it is private property the town cannot force them to do anything.

Keith said he is planning to attend one of the management company's meetings and will likely bring an engineer with him. Dick suggested having the management company come to a Water Commissioner's meeting instead. The board agreed.

Regarding the abatement request, Keith is worried that if one is given tonight it will open the floodgates to a bunch of other units requesting one. The board stated that their priority right now is to resolve the discolored water issue within the complex.

Request for Abatement – A2-11 Lydon Lane – Sims

Donald Bosworth made a motion to abate \$90 of water bill #779 for A2-11 Lydon Lane.

Seconded by Daniel Bosworth.

Motion Passes

5:25 p.m. Daniel Bosworth left the meeting/building.

Request for Abatement – A2-1 Lydon Lane – Solimini

Property owner, Michael Solimini was in attendance. Mr. & Mrs. Solimini have requested an abatement of their water bill #90030 because they feel they their billed usage is incorrect (attached.) Mr. Solimini stated that usage this high is impossible for a small condo unit with three people living in it. Dick said it is possible to have that amount of usage with everyone staying home due to the pandemic combined with the drought we had this summer. Mr. Solimini said he went to work every day during the pandemic. He also said he tested the toilets for leaks and looked around the house for any signs of water damage and found none. Keith asked Mr. Solimini if the management company used his outdoor spigot to water the community lawn. Mr. Solimini did not confirm this to be true.

Billing history for this unit shows normal usage of 24-27 thousand gallons every six months. The meter was removed and replaced in December 2020. The new meter was read in January and February of 2021 showing 5,000-gallon usage each month which is consistent with usage history.

Dick stated that in his 35 years in the water business he has never seen a water meter go forward. He has only seen them run slow in the consumer's favor. Dick instructed Keith to send out the old meter to have it tested for accuracy. If deemed accurate, Mr. Solimini will be responsible to pay the water bill in full. If found inaccurate, the town will pay the bill. Mr. Solimini did not agree to these terms. He reiterated that there is no way the family used 147,000 gallons of water in six months.

Dick explained that if the water bill is not paid the Water Department may shut his water off. Keith said water went through the meter; we just need to figure out where the water went.

Municipal Building Committee

Head of Building Maintenance, Scott Materna was in attendance. Scott informed the board that his department has moved out of this building and into the Recycling building. He would like to make more room for the Highway department at the barn by moving the Water Department into this building. His department will work with the Water Superintendent to build out the space to fit his needs and will work to provide covered parking for the water Department vehicles on site. Dick would like Scott and Keith to confirm that all our materials and vehicles will fit in this building

Keith said the vehicles need to be covered but do not need to be inside. In case of emergency, the water department vehicles need to be ready to drive at any given time. Dick is concerned with icing especially if there was to be a water break.

Keith is concerned about being responsible for maintaining this building now that Building Maintenance is no longer located here. Scott said that it is still a town building so there will be no change or additional responsibility. Scott will need to speak to the Building Inspector and Board of Health to see how to build out a carport or similar on the property.

Municipal Building Committee

Keith asked who will be paying for the shed and/or carport? Scott said it would be possible to share costs with Building Maintenance. Dick wants the extra office made into a classroom so that the staff can take online classes and meetings to fulfil their license requirements. Keith added that all water treatment classes will be held remotely until this pandemic is completely over.

Scott will confirm the parking situation on site. Once he builds out his area at the Recycling building, he will start work to move the Water Department in.

Final Water Reading Fee Complaint

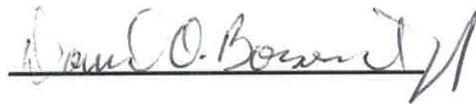
Laurie Monahan of 61 Lake Street mailed a letter to the board (attached) stating her unhappiness that the town charging a \$50 fee to obtain a final water reading. Dick stated that this fee has been in the regulations for many years and is not likely to change any time soon.

Adjournment

6:30 p.m. Donald Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Richard Clark

Motion Passes

Approved,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald O. Bosworth", is written over a horizontal line.

NOTE: NEXT MEETING DATE IS MARCH 9, 2021