



TOWN OF HALIFAX, MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

500 PLYMOUTH STREET
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MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2022

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

Motion Passes

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

Absent: Donald Bosworth, Commissioner

5:05 p.m. Request for Abatement – 29 Wamsutta Avenue – Claire Smedile

Claire Smedile would like the Commission to grant her request for abatement that was received months after the abatement period was over. Ms. Smedile distributed her original request, dated September 14, 2022, for the Commissioners to review. Her sister Judy lives in the house alone. Judy is the recipient of the water bill and she did not inform Claire of the bill until a demand notice was received.

Dick said that the abatement request period has long since passed. Claire said she did not use 74,000 gallons of water. She has a 2,000-gallon tight tank so there is no way it was a leaky toilet. Dick said the water went through the meter. Dan said it could be a hose that was left on. Claire said, "No, that didn't happen." She said she has not had in water in her cellar either. Dan said that the water went through the meter somehow.

Claire stated that she will be taking this matter up with the Board of Selectmen. Dick informed her that the Selectmen have no say over the Water Department. Claire said she does not believe that. Dick offered Ms. Smedile the option of setting up a payment plan. She stated that her sister is on a fixed income and cannot afford a payment plan. Dick said that even \$10 a month would be acceptable.

Meeting Minutes

Daniel Bosworth made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 4, 2022, as written.
Second by Richard Clark.

Motion Passes

Discussion – Bidding Results

Bill informed the Commissioners that the winning bid for the plant upgrades came in at 1.9 million dollars. Robert Sims of Tata & Howard has spoken to the awarded contractor and explained some of the items we can hold off on to save some money. We are potentially \$500,000 short even if we receive \$400,000-\$500,000 in ARPA money.

Discussion – Bidding Results

The Water Department will have to request additional funds at the Annual Town Meeting in 2023. Bill said we could potentially hold off on any Y Camp upgrades and solely focus on Richmond Park. Dick worries that if we do that, the prices will be much higher to do those upgrades.

Discussion – Potential Rate Increase

Bill feels it may be time to increase water rates. Hach increased their prices by 12%. PFAS testing went up 7.5%. Analytical Balance increased 8-15%. The last rate increase was done on May 1, 2016. Current rates are \$4.65 for up to 50,000 gallons and \$7.45 for over 50,000 gallons. Bill was thinking to increase the prices by .50 per 1,000 gallons. He and Kathy will run the numbers and create a rate increase history for the next meeting.

Discussion – Plant Upgrades

Robert Sims from Tata & Howard is in attendance to update the Commissioners on the plant upgrades project. Mr. Sims distributed a 'Canvass of Bids' (attached.) Note: The header on the coversheet is incorrect. The headers on pages 3-5 are correct.

Mr. Sims would like to hear from the Commissioners what to take out of the bid or change. Do we remove the Y Camp upgrades? EPA permitting has to be considered and satisfied. Any changes require a new bidding process. Dick expressed his concern about higher prices with a new bidding process.

The Y Camp is slated for \$102,000 in upgrades based on the winning contractor bid. Dick questioned why the fence is slated to cost \$18,000. He'd like to know where it's going and why it's needed. Mr. Sims said that prevailing wage increases the costs of these things. Dick said that \$90,000. for painting is outrageous. He can have our staff do the painting during work hours as it has done in the past. Dick questioned why signs cost \$15,000. Mr. Sims stated that the signs are for the control panels and that the EPA/DEP are very strict on having the appropriate signage. Both Dick and Dan questioned why there is a propane tank listed when it was decided to use a diesel generator. Mr. Sims said he will look into that.

The next steps are to inform the EPA that the town did not allot enough money to cover the costs of the awarded bids. Mr. Sims said it is important for the EPA to be OK with the delay.

Mr. Sims informed the Commissioners that they should expect supply chain delays. The generator is slated for 53 weeks for delivery. VHDs are taking a year. Dick questioned the re-bid timeline. Mr. Sims responded that the amended bids will be advertised in January, opened in February with construction slated to start in the Spring of 2023.

Discussion – 49 & 63 Carver Street

Bill stated that the property owner would like to install a 2-inch or 2.5-inch water service. There is already a curb stop at the location. Dick said that the homeowner's contractor would need to do the work not the Water Department. Bill stated that the proposed building also requires a 6-inch sprinkler line that requires our Cross Connection Inspector to oversee. Pressure testing will also be required. Dick said it is up to Bill to decide the extent of work our Inspector should oversee.

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Adjournment

6:45 p.m. Daniel Bosworth made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Richard Clark

Motion Passes

Approved,


Daniel Bosworth, Clerk