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WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

FEB 12 2020

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The Board of Water Commissioners met in open session on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building, Room 201.

Those in attendance were: Water Commissioners Ron Cole (Chairman); John Niedzielski (Secretary); Joseph Popielarczyk (Member); Public Works Director David Billips; Assistant Director Francis Cain; Budget Analyst Joanna Williams; Recording Secretary Hannah Larkham

The meeting was being recorded by Office Manager Hannah Larkham.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Christina Sinico- 1124 E Mountain Rd: Christina came to the Board looking to “opt out” of the meter project. She stated that Massachusetts allows residents to opt out of smart read technology. She has Lyme disease that is exasperated by electromagnetic frequency. She also stated the Gas & Electric does offer an opt out form to be filled out for Westfield residents. She wanted to come forth and see what the Board would need for her to do so with the Water Meters. Dave Billips recommended that she writes a letter to the Board stating her reasoning and case while also showing backup. The Board mimicked Dave’s request and Christina agreed.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Abatement Application: 15 Ashley St

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Abatement Application for 15 Ashley St. The property owner detected a leak in one of the toilets and had a plumber come out and fix it. Since then the consumption has come down to like quarters. The owner is looking to have bill number 567248 abated.

Motion made by Commissioner Popielarczyk to approve Abatement Application for 15 Ashley St in the amount of \$421.38. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Abatement Application: 621 East Main St

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Abatement Application for 621 E Main St. The property owner noticed the high consumption on the bill and contacted the office. Steve Fernandes went on site to help locate what meter went to the property and find the leak. It has since been repaired by a plumber and consumption is consistent with history. The owner is looking to have bill number 618503 abated.

Motion made by Commissioner Popielarczyk to approve Abatement Application for 621 East Main St in the amount of \$2,080.80. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Abatement Application: 305 East Main St

Hannah Larkham presented to the Board the Abatement Application for 305 E Main St. Steve Fernandes went out to the property to help the owner with reading the meter. Steve found the meter to be in working order when the tenant came out to state that they fixed the leaking toilet the month prior. Since the repairs the consumption is consistent with its history. The owner is looking to have bill number 608583 abated.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve Abatement Application for 305 East Main St in the amount of \$1,048.27. Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

Letter of Retirement- David Billips

David Billips presented his letter of intent of Retirement to the Board. His final day with the Department will be October 30, 2020. He talked about the great work that has been done by all division of Public Works in the 17 years he has been with the City. He also talked about what the next 10 months will look

like and what the next steps are. The Board thanked him greatly for all the hard work he has put in and all the great improvements that have been made over the years.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the minutes as written for December 3, 2019 meeting of the Board of Water Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

Project Updates

Heather Stayton informed the Board the meter project currently has 9,268 meters installed. The contractor has four crews out daily installing 20-30 meters. The project has been extended to April- May 2020 due to the decrease in appointments over the winter.

The project at Owen District Water Treatment Plants is awaiting Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval and substantial completion of building construction.

The Department is actively sampling the vessel at Well 2. A sample is pulled about every three weeks once we have received the previous results. All results that have come back with non-detect at the mid-point and point of entry. Well 2 is the only active well on the North side of Westfield and has approximately 172 million gallons of treated water through the temporary vessel.

The Water Treatment Plant on Dry Bridge is in its final stages for design. The Department is looking to start the permitting process. The Department expects to be ready to bid early this year, following completion of DEP's permit review.

The water level at the reservoir is currently full. We have had 18 inches of snow melt on top of a large amount of rain over the past few weeks.

East Mountain Tank Replacement is expected to begin this spring. The new water line is being installed parallel to the current one, this work is expected to be completed this winter.

Work on the Tekoa Dam Removal Project is on hold due to change in work conditions. The Department has a meeting with Tighe & Bond to go over the next steps.

The turbine has been turned back on and has 205-300 Kilowatt per hour (KWH) daily.

Sewer/Waste Water Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli was present at the meeting and updated the Board with changes they have made at the plant and pump stations. The Odor Scrubbing project is about 50% completed. They are waiting for RH White to schedule the unit to be dropped off and installed from the manufacturer. They are hopeful to have it completed by March depending on RH White's schedule.

There are two pump stations at Stuart Place that the Department refers to as "Big" and "Little" Stuart Pump Stations. Little Stuart Pump Station is going to be refurbished in the coming months. This station services seven houses and work with Big Stuart Pump Station. Jeff also talked about Big Stuart Pump Station being the next station that needs a good amount of repairs. If money is available in the I & I, this pump station needs to be the first on the list.

The Ammonia Aeration Project was completed this past summer. By finishing this project energy costs will be cut by 13% at the plant. This will also help on cost of chemicals needed.

The Scada hardware needs a major overhaul. With the healthy amount available in the undesignated account, the Department is hopeful a portion of that can be used for this.

City Engineer Mark Cressotti was present at the meeting to get signatures from the Commissioner's on schedules. He mentioned that Westfield State University has a large water leak on their property that is causing a washout that leads to the camp below it located on Route 20. He asked if they have a main meter to the whole property. Steve Fernandes stated each building has their own meter and we would not be able to detect the leak if it happened prior to the meter.

Commissioner Cole motioned to elect Commissioner Popielarczyk as chairman for the 2020 year. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Commissioner Cole motioned to elect himself as Secretary for the 2020 year. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

The next meeting of the Board of Water Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Adjourn

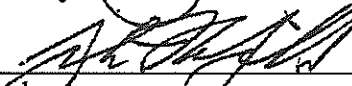
Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to adjourn; Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk, Motion approved. ADJOURN: 8:42 P.M.



Chairman



Secretary



Member

