

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Board of Water Commissioners met in open session on Tuesday May 3, 2022. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. in the Westfield Municipal Building, Room 201.

Those in attendance were: Water Commissioners Joseph Popielarczyk (chairman); Ronald Cole (Secretary) John Niedzielski (member); Acting Director Francis Cain; Water Systems Engineer Heather Stayton; Deputy Superintendent Steve Fernandes; Budget Analyst Joanna Williams; Office Manager Hannah Larkham.

The meeting was recorded by Hannah Larkham

Public Participation:

Stuart Hayden: 331 North Loomis St, Southwick. Mr. Hayden spoke to the Board about the water service at his parents' house located at 331 North Loomis St in Southwick. The Hayden's are connected to the Westfield Water system by means of the finished water transmission line that runs through their property. It was recently discovered the service line under the brook blew and is causing very little water pressure. The service line is over 2,000 feet long and Stuart believes there may be debris in the line that is causing the issue. He is coming to the Board to see if there can be a shared cost in getting the property a well and disconnecting from the City water. The Board has asked this item be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Water Abatement Applications:

99 Woodmont St: Office Manager Hannah Larkham presented a utility lien abatement to the Board for 99 Woodmont St. The property has been converted from a two family house hold to a single family household back in 2014, but unfortunately due to clerical error the second charge for sewer and waste collection were not removed. Hannah has gone in and credited the account for the bills that were paid on time, but there were a few bills that were lien (and since has been paid by the homeowner). Hannah is looking for the Board to approve the lien abatement. It is to be noted that the refund from the lien will be posted towards their next tax bill prior to the expected property closing.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the lien abatement for 99 Woodmont St in the amount of 719.13. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion approved.

Subdivision Water Application- Nathaniel Hill Estates

Filipe Cravo from R. Levesque Associates was present at the meeting to submit the site plans for water service at a new development in Westfield. They are looking to get approval for an 8" water service to come off of Falley Drive to loop and service 20 properties. The loop would be approximately 2,400 feet around. The question they are asking the Board is if they can connect the loop back to itself or if they will need to connect back to the 16" main on Falley Drive. They are in contact with Springfield Water and Sewer Commission as this service would cross their transmission line. Commissioner Cole asked Acting Director Fran Cain and Deputy Superintendent Steve Fernandes if this would be acceptable. They both responded that a loop is not typically done this way, but they don't see it being a problem as this will allow the water to flow. Water Systems Engineer Heather Stayton asked if Levesque Associates have done projects similar to this and if any water quality issues have come from this. Filipe responded he would look into this. Commissioner Popielarczyk asked if the City will require a hydrant somewhere in this plan. Steve replied they would like to see one in the far corner to allow flushing. Heather asked about the topography of the site. Filipe said it's a pretty flat piece land ranging from 218-242 feet. Heather also asks that there be air release valves throughout the service. Fran requested the City be involved in discussion with Springfield in regards to ownership of the service since it would be in close proximity to their property. The Board has no issue with the proposed designed water service.

Site Plan Approval- Lucky 7 Cannabis Greenhouse

Heather brought to the Board a site plan that has been submitted to the Planning Board. Typically these requests are not brought to the Board, but the owner is looking to have a private well installed for their greenhouse, while connecting their facilities building to the City's water system. In the Boards Rules and Regulations, The City will not provide water if the property has a private well. This rule is to prevent cross connection. Heather is looking for comments and consideration from the Board so that it may be sent to the Planning Board for their approval process. The Board is curious as to why they do not want to connect their domestic use to the well. Heather was not sure of that answer at this time. Commissioner Cole stated if the owners would like to come forth and explain their intent on connecting to both services, he is more than happy to discuss. But the Rules & Regulation was put in place for a reason. The Boards stance on this plan is to follow the Rules and Regulations in place; at this time they will not be eligible for City Water if the well is to be installed.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Discussion

Budget Analyst Joanna Williams was present at the meeting to share the preliminary fiscal year 2023 budget. The Mayor will be presenting the budget to the Council at this coming Thursday's meeting so there may be some changes. At this time the Water Division is requesting 7 million dollars and the Waste Water Division is requesting 5 million dollars. Commissioner Cole asks that the budget be presented to the Board after any changes have been made from Council. The Board are okay with approving the budget after the amendments have come in. This item will be added to next month's agenda.

Discussion of Land Transfer- Montgomery Watershed

Fran spoke to the Board about the request for land transfer from Montgomery. It was decided that Montgomery will need to do the leg work as far as legal action i.e. fair market appraisal, petition to The Department of Environmental Protection as this land is under conservation land. Until these items have been met, the City is not moving forward with the transfer.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Cole to approve the minutes as written for March 29, 2022 meeting of the Board of Water Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Niedzielski. Motion approved.

Project Updates


Steve spoke to the Board about the current projects in the City. The 6" water main on Western Ave is almost disconnected from the system. They should be done with that by this week. Cowles Bridge is on hold due to material shortage. The water valves that are needed are expected to arrive at the end of this summer. The water main they service is an 18 inch. Hydrant flushing will begin in May and will be done throughout the whole City. The Department has hired East National Water to come and do the work. The land for the Dry Bridge Water Treatment Plant has been cleared. We are also waiting for materials to come in before the next steps will be taken. The culvert replacement on City View Rd will begin this construction season. Steve wanted to bring it to the Boards attention since the water main runs along City View Rd near the work. The service is about 100 years old so there is little fear that digging close to it may cause issues and may need repair. Heather talked about the most recent water notice sent to the residents.

Adjourn

The next scheduled commission meeting will be held on June 7, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to adjourn; Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole, Motion approved.

ADJOURN: 8:24 P.M.



Chairman



Secretary

Member

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