



Town of Wilbraham

Board of Water Commissioners
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting
March 10, 2023

Physically Present: Chairman James Dunbar, Commissioners Rik Alvarez, Douglas Hutcheson, DPW Director Tonya Capparello, Water Superintendent Vinnie Pafumi, Administrative Assistants Annette Grasso and Deborah Walch.

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m.

MINUTES:

Motion was made and unanimously voted to accept the Minutes of the January 13, 2023 meeting and the February 17, 2023 meeting.

BUDGET: The only changes from last meeting are Health Insurance (reduction) and Salaries. Which are still under review.

MWRA: Nothing new to report.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

Daily Flows: Flows are a little higher than last year at the same time. Flows maybe higher due to the new car wash.

Water/Sewer customers with a past due balance will receive a notification letter that states if payment is not received, shut-off notices will be served starting April 1, 2023. As of March 9, 2023, there remains \$69,278.03 still owed.

Consecutive Water System Agreement. Final revision from Mass DEP had been sent to town council. Town council will review and/or add any changes to the Consecutive Water Agreement. Tonya will bring the final revision in front of the Board of the Water Commissioners to review and sign.

Water Conservation discussion to increase water usage rate of anything over 10,000 CF. Commissioners received rate comparison from surrounding communities. Water projects like tank improvements will come out of Retained Earnings. Discussed raising rates to help with Retain Earnings to fund water improvement projects. Improvements will be replacement of the Old Orchard water main, which will start at the highest pressure area of the street and Automation at Miller St. and water tank.

Hydraulic Improvements (Old Orchard Pump Station). Hydraulic Improvement Study will be updated after Vinnie finishes hydrant flow testing in the spring. Further discussion of the study is to take place in the next several months. Grundfos pump is running good. Vinnie increased the water pressure at Old Orchard, Glenn Drive and McIntosh Drive.

Lead and Copper Service Inventory. EPA is requiring us to keep track all water service types, size of meter, date of installation etc. Currently we are working on the water inventory and should be completed by October 2024. We will apply for state funds to comply with DEP Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Under the acceptance of the Water Commissioners Tonya will apply for money in the future to be in a separate account under water and not included in the budget. Tonya as signature of program. We will also develop an informational flyer for residents that are found to have possible lead service lines. There are programs to help with the cost of the removal of lead.

Cottage Ave Bridge Water Main. Tonya stated there will be upcoming improvement projects for the Cottage Ave Bridge. Monies maybe available through ARPA to help fund these improvements. Tonya will speak with Nick on requesting monies.

Autoread Update. Test book is 95% complete. IT, Tighe Sales and Vadar are working on the book as well. It will cost approximately \$5,000 for the software and \$5,000 for going live. Expense will come out of Operation Cost or the Reserved Fund Transfer.

SEWER DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

Nothing new to report

Other Business: Water Entrance Fee at the New Senior Center Building. Senior Center Building Committee questioned why the fees are not waived since it is a municipal building. Senior Center Representative are welcome to further discuss at Water Commissioners meeting. DPW will notify Nick.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Grasso
Administrative Assistant