



Town of Wilbraham
Board of Water Commissioners
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095
(413) 596-2800 ext. 208

Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting
July 14, 2023

Physically Present: Chairman James Dunbar, Commissioners Rik Alvarez, DPW Director Tonya Capparello, Administrative Assistants Annette Grasso, Deborah Walch and one Wilbraham Resident. Phone present: Douglas Hutchinson.

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

MINUTES:

Motion was made and unanimously voted to accept the Minutes of the June 9, 2023 meeting.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

Daily Flows: Due to a wet summer flows are lower than usual. Anticipating July flows to be higher.

Budget: Nothing to report.

Hardships: Approved 9 accounts to have Demand and Interest fees to waived.
Accepted 4 Payment Extensions.

Appointment (18 Wilson St.): Owner of 18 Wilson Street attended the meeting. 18 Wilson St. has a 1cf meter and has been billed as a 10cf meter for many years. Owner has been over billed for the past 2 years and requesting an abatement. Previous owner was her mother and was over billed for 6.5 years. She is requesting an abatement for that amount as well. It was approved to have Demand and Interest fees waived for existing owner for 2 years. Chairman Jaime Dunbar will meet with Town Council, Barbara Hancock and Janet Costa before making a decision on issuing an abatement for the previous owner (the mother).

The Woods: The Woods are looking to have the additional hydrant usage, demand and interest fee's waived. Meter was moving backwards. Water department had to flush lines to prevent dirt from going through the lines. Hydrant usage ran while shutting wheel valve off. Vinnie calculated 30,000 gallons of water used. The Woods is requesting more than 30,000 gallons because their meters registered a hire usage than our master meter Will further discuss when Vinnie is present. Tonya will have a meeting with The Woods regarding Consecutive Water Agreement.

Water Conservation: Date on the Drought Management Plan will be changed to 2023. Large condo users are not addressed in the Drought Management Plan. Add language in Management Plan for the large condos and how to all enforce violators. Tonya will speak with Barbara Hancock on the process of liens and shut offs for the water/sewer fees for things other than usage bills (i.e water restriction penalties, backflow, shutoff fees).

Shutoff Notices: Shut off Notices have been delivered to anyone with an outstanding balance of \$500.00 and above.

Golden Nozzle Narrative and Application: Discussion took place regarding Golden Nozzle's entrance fee. Entrance fees can be figured out by either Title V or the company's methodology. There are hydraulic concerns and drought season concerns. The car wash is now asking for 3 million gallons of water per year (8,250 avg gpd) but originally said they would use less than the existing car wash which is 1.4 million gallons per year (3,835 avg gpd). Their peak flow is documented at 18,300 GPD but doesn't occur often. They are monitored daily with the Town's auto read system. It was decided to give them the option to buy in at 18,300 gpd or buy in at 8,250 gpd with a credit of 3,835 gpd and agree to comply with the Town water restriction and/or Drought Management Plan even though car washes are sometimes exempt.

Jaime would like a list of the top 20 water users in town for the next meeting.

Lead Service Inventory Grant: Lead Service Grant is moving along.

Water/Sewer Entry Fees 6 Burt Lane: Will discuss at next meeting.

Water System Improvements: Retained earnings has grown due to the dry season. Discussed evaluating improvement on Miller St and Cottage Ave Bridge with the money.

SEWER DEPARTMENT BUSINESS: Senior Center Committee was sent a new bill. The Senior Center Committee will either send in a letter or attend a Water Commissioners meeting to further discuss a waiver or reduction for flows.

Other Business: 807 Tinkham Rd. Illegal usage of a fire hydrant. No damage to hydrant. Charges will be brought up against home owner.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16th, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Grasso
Administrative Assistant