

Foxboro Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

Open Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2020

Members in Attendance: Mike Stanton, Chairman; Richard Pacella, Vice-Chairman; and Robert Garber, Secretary (remote)

Others in Attendance: Bob Worthley, Superintendent (remote); Chris Gallagher, DPW Director, Jeff Peterson- Foxboro Reporter

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Stanton.

Discuss Water Regulations – Article 10 Enforcement

The DPW Director and Water Superintendent have revised Article 10 of the regulations in a draft. The purpose of the revision is to reformat the Article to include State of Water Supply Conservation – 2 day per week restrictions, bringing it right to the beginning of the Article. The violations are now included in this article. Existing violations – 1st offense written warning, 2nd is \$50, 3rd is \$100, and new all subsequent steps include a \$200 fine and water shut-off.

The Water Management Act trigger allows for watering one day per week. In order to be consistent, the 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. time frame will be kept during the one day per week.

The Board discussed enforcement of the violations beyond the regulations, and would like to be consistent with the Town's General By-Law.

Mike Stanton discussed several issues, including constructive public notice, shut-off, and an equitable avenue of appeal. He suggested looking at it more broadly; i.e., if a cross connection needs a vacuum breaker, and there is no certified letter, a door hanger is not sufficient. He would like to find a way to shut off/lock out a backflow device. He also suggested allowing two written warnings, followed by a \$500 fine for a third offense. He did not want to overreact and make a long-term change for a short-term situation.

Richard Pacella felt that it seemed aggressive to have a shut-off, with violations carrying for 3 years. How the department administers the regulation needs to be examined.

Mike Stanton added that conservation outreach needs to be included and more effective. Irrigation requirements, including moisture meters, backflow preventers should all be part of the effort. This information should be coordinated with the Board of Health and the Inspections Department.

Bob Worthley noted that the maximum fine in the General By-Laws is \$300.

The Board will continue to work on these revisions with some of the above discussion being incorporated. A redlined revision will be distributed to the Board for review.

The Board asked for an update on the water system from last week to this week.

Bob Worthley stated that last week, the level of the water tank was below safe height for fire protection. Water Department staff members are continuing their patrols looking for violators. The Town has filed for a Declaration of Emergency, which allows for the use of wells that have summer restrictions.

In 36 hours over the rainy weekend, we were able to add over 1 million gallons to the tank. Residents need to continue to follow the full water ban.

Action Items

- Superintendent's Report

Wells 10R and 9R are online. Well 10R will produce 500 GPM, Well 9R will produce 400 GPM. We were able to add 1 million gallons into the hill street tank over the weekend with these wells online and some rain.

Upon motion duly made by Robert Garber and seconded by Michael Stanton, it was voted to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes of June 30, 2020 were approved on December 8, 2020



Robert T. Garber, Clerk