

Foxboro Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

Open Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021

Members in Attendance: Michael Stanton, Chairman; Richard Pacella, Vice-Chairman; and Robert Garber, Secretary

Others in Attendance: Bob Worthley, Superintendent; Chris Gallagher, DPW Director

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

Abatement Request

32 Phyllis Road has requested an abatement of \$416.69. A motion to approve the abatement made by Richard Pacella, and seconded by Robert Garber. Bob Worthley commented that staff was sent to the property and found running toilets. Richard Pacella commented that the water went through the meter, and, therefore, the property owner is responsible to pay for the water. The request for abatement was denied by a vote of zero in favor and three against.

Discussion and Vote on Lamson Road Land Swap

Lamson Road has two properties that need to be given to the Conservation Commission for the purpose of creating a Butterfly Habitat. One property is owned by the Town of Foxborough, and the other by the Foxborough Water and Sewer Commission. The butterfly habitat is part of the MESA permit for the Oak Street Treatment Plant and Wells. The Foxborough Water and Sewer Commission must first vote to transfer the property, and then Town Meeting will vote for the Conservation Commission to accept it. Mike Stanton made a motion to transfer 4.1 acres as shown as Parcel A on a plan entitled "Approval Not Required Plan of Land" prepared by Bay Colony Group, Inc." The motion was seconded by Rich Pacella. The motion was approved three in favor; zero against.

Superintendent's Report

With recent cyber security issues making the news from other water departments, Bob Worthley let the commission know that Foxborough is as safe as it can be. Foxborough utilizes password protected VPN, VNC, and, newly added to the system, is DMZ. There is no direct access from the outside; it is read-only. Mike Stanton commented that we have alarms on our alarms.

PFAS sampling is ongoing every quarter throughout the system. Wells at Chestnut Street are between 10 and 20 ppt. This requires monthly sampling.

Well 14R at Witch Pond has been permitted to construct. We are working on a change order to the Barbato Construction Company contract, in order for them to move to Well 14R, once they have completed Wells 7, 9, and 10.

Discussion and Vote on Budget

Rate hearing will be scheduled for May 25th, 2021.

Rich Pacella asked what the budget needs to look like in order to have no watering restrictions. Chris Gallagher explained that the capital projects over the last several years will have the department in a place where the supply will no longer be a reason for watering restrictions. With the new 1 million gallon tank being constructed in 2021, the four new wells that feed the new Chestnut Street Treatment

Plant, the three new wells being completed at Oak Street this spring, and the existing wells at Sprague Road, we will be able to pump over four million gallons per day into the system. Through our Mass DEP permit, we are only allowed 3.16 MGD as a max daily flow. Rich Pacella would like to see a breakdown of where the funding is going, in order to show the rate payers.

Bob Garber talked about the clean water we have been producing, which is evidenced by the reduction of dirty water calls to zero, unless there is a main break. Main breaks have also been reduced, due to the lining work and pipe replacement projects over the last 10 years.

Mike would like to see capital funding being factored into the rates on an annual basis. Future years will add 1 million per year into the operating budget for capital projects.

Rich would like to see Asset Management of our system; we cannot just keep kicking it down the road. Now that some of the major infrastructure projects have been funded and completed, it is time to continue the pipe replacement projects.

Bob Garber asked what a 19.5% increase in the budget would do to the average quarterly bill. Mike stated that the minimum bills are approximately \$100, this will be an increase of \$20 per quarter, or \$7 per month, which is reasonable, in order to continue to provide clean safe drinking water, and to continue to upgrade the system to today's standard.

Upon motion duly made by Robert Garber and seconded by Richard Pacella, it was voted to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

These minutes of March 9, 2021 were approved on September 14, 2021.



Robert T. Garber, Clerk