



Approved
12/11/23

Town of Carver

North Carver Water District Commission

Posted in accordance with the Provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20B

Meeting minutes for November 14, 2023, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #4, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.
This meeting is also being videotaped and rebroadcast by Area 58 TV.

Attendees: Mike Palimeri, Chairman, Eric Mueller, Vice Chairman

Absent:

Also present: Stephen Bachand and Kim from SWSS

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM, by Mr. Palimeri

Update from Small Water Systems Services -

(Some subject matter has been taken out of order per the Chair's discretion)

- Water Operator Report – Kim
 - Manganese levels are getting better and are consistently below Health Advisory level of 0.3. We would like to reduce sampling to twice per month. 0.17 was most recent from plant; 0.042 was from distribution (Tractor supply), which is an approved sample location. The guys are still talking with plant designers and working to get them to come down.
- Backflow Preventative Device
 - Mr. Palimeri – Failed test on backflow from CVS in Carver. Who does the follow up? Kim - We would do follow up with you and reach out to customer. You would have 14 days from the date it was identified, to have it repaired and retested. Mr. Palimeri – That time has elapsed; I assumed it was just informational for us. Kim – I will reach out to Kelly. Mr. Palimeri - They would be required to hire someone to fix it? Kim - Yes, or they can reach out to us to facilitate.
- Repair/replace various water meters
 - Mr. Palimeri – Where are we with replacements? Mr. Bachand – The list is with Kelli but I believe there are only a couple left.
- Review DEP Sanitary Survey
 - Mr. Palimeri - I have tried to find an established Emergency Plan within this town and been unsuccessful. Kim – We can work together and get a template for it. We really need something done before the end of the year. We will need to have a meeting scheduled with

the police, fire, town of Middleboro, etc. We can work on a template and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Palimeri – I haven't approached Emergency Management yet; I will reach out to them this week. Mr. Palimeri – I will get back to you after reaching out to the Emergency management people. Kim – This should be relatively easy.

- Customer Service / Communications

- Mr. Palimeri – We all have some areas to improve here. Mr. Mueller – I think SWSS communicated to a customer (4 appointments that was brought up on one site). Various appointments were made and there was a no show. Kim – There was a communication issue; it has since been taken care of.
- Mr. Palimeri – I have a difficult time following long chain emails. We need to all acknowledge the issue and tighten that up. I have also spoken to some folks at the Town Hall. We all need to keep to the subject matter.
- Mr. Mueller – There is still an issue on Lakenham with discoloration. Mr. Palimeri – The last issue I heard was Santana Way which is now cleared up. My water cleared up pretty well but I've noticed it is starting to darken up, a little milky. I probably wouldn't have said anything about it, but it was brought up.

Mr. Bachand – We could flush just that side; like we did with Santana Way. Mr. Palimeri – Let's wait and see if we receive any calls or emails. Kim – We haven't received any direct complaints from the Lakenham area in a month and a half, two months.

Discussion between NCWD, Town of Carver and Town of Middleborough for Middleborough to provide water for the short-term solution to water quality:

Mr. Palimeri – Kim and I spoke on the phone. These conversations have been occurring. This includes the Select Board, Myself, the Town Administrator and the DPW. We have been talking with the Town of Middleborough to go back on their water system. It looks like we are going to be doing that for the short term and will be utilizing that time to really look at the system. Kim – When would you like to do that? Mr. Palimeri – People have been asking why we aren't on Middleborough water. Other people in government were pushing this issue faster than I was aware; they were ready to do it. We have since slowed it down a little. As it stands now, we are looking at about December 1. It may be a month; five months, a year; I don't know yet. The plant will stay active and you will continue to maintain the plant. Kim – The DEP will need to be brought in to determine what they want done to the plant while it is not in service. Mr. Palimeri – I expect that. Communication is important and will be expected. The plant is not getting decommissioned right now. We want to find out what that plant can really do. Mr. Mueller – We are only running at 40% capacity right now; we don't know if it can do 100K per day. Mr. Palimeri – So we don't know what it can actually handle. We need to find and shut that valve off so we can run it at full. Mr. Bachand – Yes, we will need to dig; the metal detector is picking up different areas. Mr. Palimeri – DPW will reach out to the contractor that buried the curb stop. We will all get together and meet down there.

Kim – The DEP will want a Corrective Action Plan and a timeline. They will want to know what we are doing to try to dial the plan in and a projected timeline to turn the plant back on. They may or may not continue to require sampling. The Distribution System is part of the PWS so there may be different sampling that is required because Middleboro's water is chlorinated. Who will be leading the charge with this and the state? Middleboro? Mr. Palimeri – I believe Middleboro. The two license holders (SWSS and Middleboro) are the key component to communicate to see who is responsible for what.

Mr. Mueller – They want to do this prior to a meter pit being installed? Mr. Palimeri – We signed an MOU on the meter pit; the meter didn't arrive. This was all started because there was no accurate accountability of water used. We are now looking at getting water, short term. Middleboro almost didn't open up the connection in October because they didn't have a signed MOU. Now that the agreement is in place, they will do it, even though there is no timeline for the completing the meter pit. Kim – Even if you weren't going

onto Middleboro Water, we would need some kind of SOP so we don't risk the residents running out of water because Middleboro hadn't said yes. Mr. Palimeri – Middleboro is waiting for the Town of Carver to sign a short-term agreement to do this with the water rate they have chosen. We will reach out to Amanda for a meter read.

Kim – While you are temporarily on Middleboro, the frequency of plant visits by SWSS, will be up to the state to determine. We will schedule a read on the chosen day. Mr. Bachand – If it's done on December 1, we will read the meters on that morning. Mr. Palimeri – I still need to confirm the date. Mr. Bachand – You will need to give Amanda a day's notice to prep for the meter reads. Kim - The DEP may require a conference call with the DEP, Middleborough, the Town and NCWD. Mr. Palimeri – Only one of us can attend. Mr. Mueller – The time window seems quick for what has to happen prior; is it realistic? Mr. Palimeri – Yes. Mr. Mueller – Approval from DEP, what will be put in place for an Action Plan? Kim – That depends on what they approve and how quickly they respond. If they only thing Middleboro needs is final reads and they then okay opening the valve, we want to make sure all of your quarterly samplings have been done so that you satisfy North Carver requirements, which I believe is already done. If we give them a Corrective Action Plan and they give us some focus items, we need to see how quickly we can turn around a new Corrective Action Plan in conjunction with Middleboro to satisfy their requirements and they approve it. Mr. Bachand – We have to shut the valve at the plant as well. Kim – Responses from the State will be the issue; I can reach out to Middleboro to see if they want to take the lead. Mr. Palimeri – Yes, please reach out to them.

Mr. Palimeri – In regard to Vieola coming out, I don't want them coming out until we find that valve so that we can cycle that plant. Mr. Bachand – I will let her know. Kim – Depending on what happens while you are on Middleboro, troubleshooting the plant and dialing it in, there may come a point where either the state or we decide and discuss that an engineering study might need to happen. Mr. Palimeri – Even though we are an enterprise fund and are supposedly separate from the Town, we are tied tightly to the Town. We can't spend over our budget, which is approved at Town Meeting. Additional funding for an engineering study would require a special Town Meeting or to wait for the next Town Meeting. The Town doesn't want to continue to invest in this plant until we can figure out what it can actually do.

Mr. Palimeri – This plant was designed poorly; it is not the fault of SWSS. SWSS is just trying to maintain the plant. Kim – It might also be beneficial to talk with the DEP re: the Emergency Preparedness Meeting. If you are switching over to Middleboro for an indeterminate amount of time, we could request another extension. They will eventually require it, if you turn the plant back on. If this turns into a permanent solution, they will no longer require it. Mr. Palimeri – I would like to have SWSS reach out to them. Kim – We can do that. Mr. Bachand – While we are on Middleboro water, are we under their Emergency Response Plan? Mr. Palimeri – Yes, I would think so. Kim – Yes, but the emergency plan for Middleborough might be for Carver to turn the plant back on. I will reach out to Middleboro and let you know when I get a date for a meeting with everyone involved.

Mr. Mueller – Should we reach out on the CVS issue? Kim – I will talk to Kelly and see where it stands. If they are non-responsive, it might help to receive pressure from the Commissioners.

Public Comments:

All statements made during the Citizen's Participation Public Comment Period should be kept to a maximum of five minutes per person –

Nothing tonight

Bottled Water Refund Request:

Discuss timeline -

- 26 Santana Way.

Motion to authorize reimbursement for bottled water purchase for 26 Santana Way, in the amount of \$9.99:

Mr. Mueller

Second: Mr. Palimeri

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Water Service Application:

Mr. Palimeri – The information from these meters and the radio devices is not getting to all parties that need it. The billing department used to get it but not now. Mr. Mueller – I have an updated application that I sent. I added quite a bit to it. Mr. Palimeri – Let's put it back on the agenda for next meeting to discuss the most updated application/fees. I want to emphasize the need for meter and radio serial transmit numbers must be turned into the Town of Carver Billing Department and Permitting Department, before the water is turned on, whether the Town of Carver or a private contractor installs the service. Currently, that information is not getting to the Town Hall for proper and accurate billing. Mr. Mueller – When they paid the permit fee, nothing will get signed off until that is brought in and signed off on by a member of this Board. Mr. Palimeri – We will discuss in detail at our next meeting.

Bills Payable:

Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1, in the amount of \$ 6,250.00: Mr. Palimeri

Second: Mr. Mueller

Discussion: Contractual monthly fee from SWSS for the NCWD

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Motion to pay the bills in Batch #2, in the amount of \$ 6,564.22: Mr. Palimeri

Second: Mr. Mueller

Discussion: Utilities, phone, legal fees, misc.

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Minutes: October 16 and October 23, 2023:

Motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023 and October 23, 2023, as written: Mr. Mueller

Second: Mr. Palimeri

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Board Member Comments:

- Mr. Palimeri –
 - I want to stress that moving to Middleboro Water, short term, is not reflective of SWSS. They have to operate the plant; they did not design the plant.
 - Our past bill had a water credit issue which was voted on and approved at a previous meeting. As a water commissioner, I abstained from voting. I don't expect anything from the Town. I paid my water bill last week. I was entitled to the credit but I chose not to take the credit. This credit is for the specified water bill.
 - We need to discuss when we should discontinue reimbursement for bottled water. Mr. Mueller – I think that should be by our next meeting

Motion to discontinue reimbursement of bottled water or filters, in regard to the issue of turning the plant back on or about July 1, 2023. Our next meeting will be the final meeting that we will accept those requests: Mr. Palimeri

Second: Mr. Mueller

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

- I wanted to be transparent; if we go on Middleboro Water, temporary or permanent, we will probably be looking at a rate increase. Reading water meters is not 100% accurate and we always have issues with every read. Our reading will be turned over to them and then Middleboro will be adding 10% onto the read due to meter issues, leakage, etc. Whatever that number is they will charge 1.5Xs what they charge their residents. This sounds like a lot but it is in fact close to what we charge right now. This is a cost to our budget that we did not plan on. I think this is the way to go but there will be a cost to doing this. Mr. Mueller – When the Meter Pit is finally installed, that will help eliminate the 10% because we will have an accurate read. Mr. Palimeri – Hopefully that will be in the spring.
 - Middleborough will be insistent that we are following up on meters. Meters are required to be replaced every 10 years; I know that is not being done. This will be another unintended cost. We will have to incorporate that into our next budget.
- Mr. Mueller - Nothing tonight.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman, 48-hours in advance of the posting of this agenda:

Nothing tonight

Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting will be held on December 11, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 PM: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

NORTH CARVER WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES 11/14/2023

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)