



approved
3/21/22

Town of Carver

North Carver Water District Commission

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Meeting minutes for February 17, 2022, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room # 3, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.

Attendees: Kevin Tracey, Chairman; Stephen P. Romano, Commissioner.

Absent: William Sinclair, Commissioner

Also present: Sue MoQuin; Bob Fennessy, ITA

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM, by Mr. Tracey

Rte. 44 Development, Urban Renewal Plan:

When I am done here, I will be attending the RDA meeting upstairs. I will give you the update at our next meeting.

Service Connections on Santana Way:

Mr. Tracey – Nothing new on Santana Way. Mr. Romano – They sold unit 28. How did they sell without water?

Discussion:

- Montello Street – Mr. Tracey – On hold until spring.

- FY23 Budget – Taken out of order to accommodate schedules.

NORTH CARVER WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES 2/17/2022

Mr. Tracey –

We had some discussions about the Diff. I sent you some paperwork; have you looked at it/did that make sense to you? Ms. MoQuin - No, but I do have the information that I need, I just need to go over it. I need to look at the NSTAR credits as well. Mr. Tracey – Electric is still running way hotter than it should. I know you are new, and my budget is just a piece of what you have to work with. Mr. Romano – *Addressing Mr. Fennessey* - Do you understand that we pump back into the grid and sell it to Town Hall/Library? Mr. Tracey – We pay Solare America for the Electric and then we get credit. Mr. Romano – We did two phases. We wouldn't have done the second phase if we weren't going to get something for it. If we didn't have a commitment from the Town, we wouldn't have done it. Mr. Tracey – Yes, we also have a contract with the Solare America. Mr. Romano – It's more complicated than I make it. Mr. Tracey – It is. Meg handled this when she was here. When Meg left, some of her workload was not picked up by someone else, including this. We need to be caught up with this before the end of the fiscal year. If it is not handled, when the state certifies our retained earnings, we won't get credit for that. It must be done before the end of the fiscal year so that when they do certify, it will go to the correct account. I don't want the Town to need to be responsible for the District. Mr. Romano – I am not a "water person", I am an accountant. My goal is to get us into the black.

Mr. Tracey –

- Water Use charges – We discussed doing an increase this year. I have done some research from Middleboro, Kingston, Plymouth and Wareham. Our base quarterly rate is \$59.06 per 1000 cubic feet.
 - Middleboro does a quarterly base rate of \$57.25 for 500 cubic feet of water. Anything above the 500 cubic feet, they charge, based on step.
 - Plymouth is a little more reasonable. Quarterly base of \$25 but they charge for all of the cubic feet. They start from \$1.70 up to \$3.50. They don't have a minimum.

Mr. Romano – We haven't had an increase in 3 years. Mr. Fennessey – Where do we sit? Mr. Tracey – We are high, comparatively. If we could spread it out over a larger area/more users, it would be different. Mr. Romano – We wanted to sell 100K gallons per day and we are only selling 30K per day. The plant could handle more. Mr. Tracey – With a few upgrades, the plant could easily handle a lot more.

- Kingston has a base quarterly rate of \$36 and a tiered rate \$2.50 - \$6.25. They also have "water for resale" which we may want to include for people who draw from the fill station. They charge .05 per gallon. This is if you purchase water for resale, it would be a charge of .05 per gallon. Indian Head Water would be an example for this. SLT would be another example
- Wareham has an annual fee of \$120, which is \$30 per quarter. They credit you with 2000 cubic feet. Anything above that is charged at anywhere from \$.85 to \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet.

Mr. Tracey – So what are your thoughts? Should we raise the water rate? Mr. Romano – I would like to have a hearing. Mr. Tracey – We must have a hearing regardless. What would we propose for the increase? Mr. Romano – We have discussed 1.5%. Can we hold off on posting the hearing? Mr. Tracey – Yes, we have time. I will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Romano - Should we leave the budget number? Mr. Tracey – If we generate more revenue, it will be put into retained earnings so let's leave it at \$87K, for now.

Mr. Tracey - We voted to transfer from retained earnings (\$552K), the amount of \$50K. Mr. Fennessey – Why only \$50K? Mr. Tracey – We still have \$6.5 Million in debt. We are trying to eliminate the need for a subsidy. If we do this, we can continue to do this for a few years. Mr. Romano – It was originally lower. We know that we've got a membrane replacement coming down the road which will be a big expense. If you look at what we are asking for this year, there is an enormous difference. Mr. Fennessey – The goal is to bring the debt down.

Mr. Tracey – Additional budget line items:

- We are going to transfer out of the Stabilization Account, the amount of \$9,646.00 that belongs to this year's budget.
- \$50,000.00 from retained earnings.
- IRS Subsidy – We are going to ask the Federal Government for that.
- Pilot and Diff – I am still not convinced it is 100% correct but we do need to move on and get this in front of everyone to see.
- Transfer from Free Cash – I did suggest that the transfer come from Building and Capitalization Fund instead of free cash. Ms. MoQuin – I would lean toward free cash. Mr. Tracey – Okay, we will leave that as is.
- Debt service is a schedule; we can't do anything on that.

We also made some adjustments to:

- Repair and maintenance facilities
- Electric – We increased due to contractual obligation (2% annually)
- Reserve Account – We tucked a little more into this account. We eliminated billing support. Mr. Romano – SWSS is up in June. I suggested that we put it in the Reserve Fund and move it when we know what the accepted bid is. Mr. Fennessey – Are we going out to bid on this? Mr. Tracey – I have to talk to Dave and SWSS beforehand. We should probably do an RFP on that. Mr. Romano – The Town uses SWSS as well.
- Balance Surplus - can be used for indirect costs. It's important that this stays in this budget. Mr. Romano – Our indirect costs increased by \$13K. Did we get our monies worth? Mr. Tracey – It did coincide with the realignment for Dave Siedentopf group. Mr. Romano reviewed the breakdown that was provided. Ms. MoQuin – The analysis/calculations will need to be looked at going forward. Mr. Tracey – We can live with this, overall, but it's not perfect. The district is interested in being cooperative with the Town as to ways the money is moved. We are providing this information based on a prediction of what will happen 18 months from now. Ms. MoQuin – I have spoken with Amanda regarding your billing system and integrating it with ours. Mr. Tracey – We did look at this in the past, but it was a bit too much for us at the time. I would love to make that happen but would maybe need to get others to join us (Cranberry Village, Police, etc.). The software that Amanda is using is outdated. Ms. MoQuin – I do have a call into Softwrite to get more information.

Motion to approve the FY23 Budget as presented tonight: Mr. Romano

Second: Mr. Tracey

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Water Operations:

Mr. Romano – I want to ask about the water disruption for one hour. Mr. Fennessey – Kevin and I spoke. Mr. Tracey – I have an incident report that crossed my desk today. It was a windy day, and we have challenges with power surges in the plant. I have touched base with Dave Siedentopf but haven't heard back yet. We are probably going to have to do an RFP to get the necessary upgrades to the treatment plant to prevent from power surges from impacting the VFDs. Mr. Fennessey – The other issue was having some way to notify users when there is an issue. Ms. MoQuin – In Abington, we had Nixel. If you subscribed, you got notifications.

Water Operators Report:

Nothing tonight

Bills Payable:

Discussion:

Motion to pay the bills for Batch 1 in the amount of \$10,957.01: Mr. Romano

Second: Mr. Tracey

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Motion to pay the bills for Batch 2 in the amount of \$6,000.00: Mr. Romano

Second: Mr. Tracey

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Minutes –

January 10, 2022 –

The minutes for January 10, 2022 were tabled for the next meeting.

Correspondence:

Mr. Tracey -

- I received an email from the Treasurer indicating that the Federal reimbursement for interest on the bond has been received.
- Also a report on the incident at the treatment plant has been filed with Mass DEP.
- Additionally a reminder to the Commissioners about campaign finance, ethics testing, and discrimination reports.
- A request for info about the Meadowbrook system was received through the Town of Carver website and was directed to the proper department.

Next meeting:

Motion to schedule our next meeting, on March 14, 2022, at 5:30 PM: Mr. Romano

Second: Mr. Tracey

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Meeting adjourned:

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:20 PM: Mr. Romano

Second: Mr. Tracey

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)