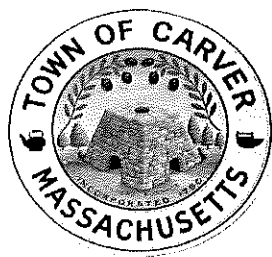


approved 7/11/22



## Town of Carver

# North Carver Water District Commission

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

Meeting minutes for June 13, 2022, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #4, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.

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

Absent:

Also present: Stephen Bachand and Greg Lizotte from SWSS

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM, by Mr. Tracey

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*Motion to move item number 11 to the first subject on the agenda: Mr. Romano  
Second: None heard, motion failed*

Discussion: - Mr. Palimeri – I would rather not as some people might not be here yet. Mr. Romano – I motioned to start hearing at 5:30.

*Approved: Motion Failed*

### **Discussion:**

- Rules and Regulations

Mr. Palimeri –

Before the election, I sat in on some meetings and I also have read a copy of the Rules & Regulations. One thing that is glaring to me is that –

- a. When I had a service line put into my house, there was no one there to inspect even though someone from the district was supposed to. In the Regulations, there is no recourse for the homeowner if it's not inspected. In my line of work, if it's not inspected, it did not happen. If we are asking that someone pay the price to have a service line put in and it must be inspected but it was not, why would the homeowner be liable if there were any issues down the road? There is no fault here, but this deals with permitting and licensing. Mr. Tracey – Yes, but there are also other situations such as when you develop a repour, an inspector may not require a stringent inspection, while knowing that contractors work. He may perhaps request photos.
- b. Second, Mr. Palimeri – Emergency on page one. I don't believe that service is available 24/7. Mr. Tracey – During off hours, there are procedures in place. Mr. Palimeri – Why can't it just go to SWSS? Mr. Romano – We have 96 business and residents. If we give it to everyone, that is a lot on SWSS. Mr. Bachand – Our phone numbers are available to a lot of people. If there is an issue and a call received, we will ask the appropriate questions to determine if it is our responsibility. Mr. Palimeri – The police and billing are not the water department. The people should be able to go right to the source.

Mr. Palimeri – In my time in Town, I have never heard anything but complaints from residents for the Water District. Mr. Romano – How do we fix it? Mr. Palimeri – Put SWSS phone number on the bill. Mr. Bachand – I would put it in the next bill cycle. Mr. Tracey – We can do that. We could also put it on the website. Mr. Palimeri – We have a big project coming up. If they don't have an inspector hired to look out for the Town's interest as a whole, they need to have them in place. Mr. Bachand – We came in a little late to the inspection conversation but when a water line is installed, SWSS goes in and inspects it. Mr. Palimeri – A line was put in at my house and wasn't inspected. I questioned the person who did it. Mr. Bachand – I did the first one for your house but was not called for a return inspection. Mr. Tracey – Larry Page has been doing business within the district for a while. Mr. Palimeri – He put a plastic pipe through a stone foundation that should have been sleeved and was not. Mr. Bachand – I did tell him that should have been sleeved. If it pokes a hole, it will fall on you. Mr. Palimeri – Yes, if it wasn't inspected and it should have been. Mr. Bachand – Now it would go back on Larry. Mr. Palimeri – As a licensed tradesman, my code (not utility) says "any pipe penetrating a foundation must be sleeved." Mr. Bachand – Yes. Did anyone do your shut off or meter? Mr. Palimeri – Not yet. Mr. Romano – This is in our regulations to have it inspected. The vendor didn't follow our regulations. It's a vendor problem and should be dealt with accordingly. There are going to be 23 hook ups! We need to address the vendor problem; there is no regulation problem. Our regulations protect the citizens of Carver; someone is not following them. Mr. Bachand – A call should be made to Larry. Mr. Tracey – I will talk to Larry about sleeving. Mr. Palimeri – It is not in the proposal given to him. Mr. Tracey – That is a Kevin Forgue thing.

*Motion to include an emergency phone number on the water bill, beginning with the July, 2022 invoice: Mr. Romano  
Second: Mr. Palimeri  
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

**Rte. 44 Development, Urban Renewal Plan:**

Mr. Tracey – They are still working. Mr. Bachand – I have done an inspection and sample.

**Service Connections on Santana Way:**

Mr. Tracey – What is going on there? Mr. Bachand – I saw a well truck up there and there are 4-5 people living there. They have a water truck that I assume is being filled by the hydrant. One of their hydrants is at a 45-degree angle. It looks like someone hit it before backfilling it. Mr. Tracey – That should be fixed. If there are no service connections to the right side, we should be able to close the gate(s). Mr. Romano – Do we have the power to do that? Mr. Tracey – It is technically private property. Mr. Palimeri – Have they formed the Association yet? Mr. Tracey – No, they haven't. Mr. Bachand – Who is responsible for fixing an issue? Mr. Tracey – The HOA would be responsible. Amanda needed serial numbers; did she reach out to SWSS? Mr. Bachand – Yes.

**Discussion:**

- Montello Street - Mr. Tracey - Making great progress.

**Water Operator Report:**

Mr. Bachand –

- We have had brown water issues.

Janet McIsaac, 208 Plymouth Street – We had brown water up until 6/2 and had no water on 6/3.

Mr. Bachand - The Town doesn't have enough pressure to flush the hydrants. We reached out to Middleboro to increase the pressure and haven't had an issue since.

Mr. Palimeri – The reason for the flushing was due to Montello? Mr. Bachand – We should be flushing twice a year. We are going to get on a schedule with Middleboro. Mr. Palimeri – Normally, there would be signs when there is flushing. Mr. Tracey – I did what I could. I had Jill put it on the website as well as reach out to anyone that we could. When we get elevated storage, the pressure issues will change, the hydrants will become active.

- Treatment plant went down. You may want to consider the membranes now. Mr. Tracey – Will they take money at delivery? Mr. Bachand – I will reach out to them. Mr. Tracey – We have money for membranes, I just need to determine if we need to wait until Town Meeting next spring to ask for money. Mr. Romano – Why wouldn't it fall under emergencies and unforeseen? Mr. Tracey – I have a meeting coming up, I will check. Mr. Bachand – I would budget for new membranes every 7 years. Mr. Palimeri – I stand by what I have said before, we should have put this in the MOU. Mr. Tracey – We need them now, not when the project is permitted. Mr. Palimeri – We didn't know we would need them now. Mr. Romano – I agree that maybe it should have been, but it is done. The next time we will consider it.

### **Bills Payable:**

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1, in the amount of \$22,675.00: Mr. Romano  
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #2, in the amount of \$6,000.00: Mr. Romano  
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

### **Minutes: May 9, 2022:**

*Motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022, as written: Mr. Romano  
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

### **Correspondence:**

Mr. Tracey –

- Amanda is having issues with payment from the new owners of the Dog Mall. All of their mail is being returned so they are not getting their bills. Once it exceeds \$100, it will cause a shut off.
- Invoice for Insurance – Cost went way up.
- FM Generator – Dave Siedentopf signed a town wide contract, I wasn't aware. He will take care of the invoice.
- I received an email from an operator looking for work, I referred him to SWSS

**Board Members Comments:**

- Mr. Tracey –
- Mr. Romano –
  - SWSS Contract - How are we doing with the new SWSS Contract? Mr. Tracey – I have not heard back. Mr. Romano – Who do we talk to; the contract is up 6/30? Mr. Palimeri – Who handles the contract, Us or Dave? Mr. Tracey – It's a combination. Mr. Romano – We used to do our own; money got tight so the Town wanted to consolidate to reduce costs. We established a budget for next year, beginning 7/1 with a contract that expires on 6/30 but we don't know the cost of the new contract. Lisa Shaw, 208 Plymouth Street – I work for the state as well. We need to know ahead of time.
  - Privilege Fee/Plymouth Street - We discussed setting a date for starting up privilege fees for Plymouth Street? Mary Dormer, 162 Plymouth Street – 1 year from the date of when water became available, roughly 11/19/2022. Mr. Romano – Anyone who decides in a year to hookup will have to pay for their portion. Mr. Palimeri – I don't know the times/dates but they did come up with a date that the homeowner had to decide whether to accept NCWD water. If they decided later, they would have to pay for hooking up a meter, etc. I don't believe there was a discussion on Privilege Fee.

Mary Dormer, 162 Plymouth Street – Now we have a newer issue with PFAS with about 7-8 houses. Every home creates another 500-foot radius. I don't know how the PFAS will affect all of this. Mr. Tracey – My feeling about the Privilege fee is through no fault of their own, people lost values in their property. The Town pays and makes them whole again. It would have been adding insult to injury for the NCWD take that value back out again. Mr. Romano – I agree. I feel that even people that don't have contaminated water have access now. If they don't hook up now and they have a good well, they should have to pay a

privilege fee. What happens if their well has issues down the road? Ms. Dormer – They are going to because PFAS doesn't move. Mr. Romano – If they have a good well and are outside one of these diameters and they don't hook up now, they should have to pay for part of the debt of the pump house. This is what we do for everyone else. Mr. Palimeri – This whole issue has been fluid since 2015, in the area we are talking. When that was almost done, PFAS came into play. We aren't educated enough in this issue to determine a date. Mary Dormer – The DEP will look for the responsible party and will determine it to be the Town of Carver. At 2021 Town Meeting 1,4 Dioxane was the only concern. June of 2021, my well tested above the limit for PFAS and prompted the DEP to make the Town test everybody. Mr. Palimeri – I have a test well on my property. Mr. Romano – I would think everyone would want to hook up if there are these issues. Mr. Palimeri – Because there are so few people on Town water, with real estate, it is financially beneficial to have a private well vs paying a water bill. Over the 12 years I have been here, it was cheaper to run a well. That all changes when I hook up. It is not a good thing in the eyes of what your property is worth. If it is contaminated that changes. Mr. Romano – I think that every single house falls under a different situation. I have had to put in three water systems in my house; the last one was \$4500; salt, filters, etc. For me, it would be cheaper to be on the water district. Mr. Palimeri – As a licensed plumber, more houses than not in Carver do not have a treatment system. Mr. Romano – If I don't have my system, I would need to replace all of my pipes in the house. Mr. Tracey – I agree that maybe residential properties don't benefit as much as commercial properties but part of the NCWD mission is commercial growth. The only reason Hillwood wants to build here is because we have water available.

- Mr. Palimeri -

#### **Next Meeting:**

*Motion to hold our next meeting on July 11, 2022 at 5:30 PM: Mr. Romano  
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

Mr. Tracey – I will have to push for all invoices to be in prior to this meeting.

Mr. Palimeri – I will be at the July meeting but will not be at the August.

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

#### **Continued Public Hearing on Water Rate Increase:**

Mr. Palimeri recused himself from the meeting and will be participating as a resident.

Mr. Tracey – We only have one account that meets the criteria of elderly, low income. Mr. Romano – Some people may just be averse to verifying their income. I have been thinking about this and I think that until this water system works, we should hold off on any increase.

*Motion to close the public hearing: Mr. Romano*

*Second: Mr. Tracey*

*Approved: Unanimous (2-0)*

*Motion to not raise the rates at this time: Mr. Romano*

*Second: Mr. Tracey*

*Approved: Unanimous (2-0)*

Mr. Palimeri returned to the meeting as a Board member.

Mr. Palimeri – A standpipe will be beneficial to the whole system. It pressurizes it and we could do planned flushes and keeps the plant running smoothly. Mr. Romano – When we were strictly Middleboro, did the hydrants work then? Mr. Tracey – They did. Mr. Romano – Middleboro as 90 PSI. Mr. Palimeri – You want 80-85 PSI to run optimally, you can always throttle it back if needed. Our system can't do that. Mr. Romano – The Planning Board changed regulations to require developers to put in the hydrants. Mr. Palimeri – They are used for fire protection.

### **Adjournment:**

*Motion to adjourn was made at 7:02 PM: Mr. Romano*

*Second: Mr. Palimeri*

*Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*