

approved 7/11/22



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 July 11, 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, SWSS (via Phone); Michael Bumpus, Middleboro Water Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 5:34 PM, by Mr. Tracey

Discussion:

- Rules and Regulations

Mr. Tracey – I would like to discuss the insert I had put into the bills, this time around. The insert was distributed to the Board Members. The Rules and Regulations has an appeal process for anyone feeling they are aggrieved, financially, by the failures of the Water District that recently occurred. Within 30 days of receiving their bill they can submit a written request to hear their grievance. In the General Provisions, the district is not responsible for outages, etc. This is general language that happens with municipal utilities. While zero is not the answer, 100% is not the answer either. I wanted your opinion.

Mr. Romano – We issued the bills earlier in July. Mr. Tracey – Yes. Mr. Romano – I would like to take those bills and divide by 3 and give a credit for the month of June, on the next bill. Mr. Tracey – Across the board? Mr. Romano – Yes. Mr. Palimeri – So you are subtracting a month from the next billing cycle. Mr. Romano – Yes, but we

would have to give them a credit. We would give the assessors a negative (credit) balance. It seems that the problems started in early June. We did connect to Middleboro within two weeks, but I thought the month of June would be easier to calculate. This should not affect bulk water. Mr. Palimeri – Is the insert for the bills in our Rules and Regulations? Mr. Tracey – Yes, they are directly from our Rules and Regulations that have been in place since at least 2019.

*Motion to provide a one third credit, across the board, toward the next billing cycle for all customers: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

Declaration of Water Emergency:

Mr. Tracey - The Superintendent of Middleboro has asked us to declare a water emergency/water conservation. We have a section in our Rules and Regulations that pertains to water restrictions. I would like to enact that.

Mr. Bumpus – All non-essential outside watering. Mr. Tracey – We are asking Middleboro for a huge favor and we should do what we can to minimize the impact on Middleboro. Mr. Bumpus – One of my wells has a major electrical issue as well that won't be resolved until August. Mr. Palimeri – Will what we have cover what Middleboro needs. Mr. Tracey – Yes. No watering lawns/non-essential outside watering. Mr. Bachand, can you get some signs made? Mr. Bachand – Yes, I can do that. Mr. Tracey - We will have to watch for those that are not in compliance to remind them. Mr. Bumpus – This would be a full non-essential watering. I have the same restrictions in Middleboro; crops/vegetable gardens can be watered.

*Motion to declare a State of Water Emergency, no non-essential watering, including filling pools, washing cars and watering lawns. Vegetables gardens/crops can be watered: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Mr. Bumpus – Have you asked around about the Zenon filter, maybe Taunton or Swansea? I was told there was a group/community that shared information on that. Mr. Tracey – Steve B, have you reached out? Mr. Bachand – When I spoke with them, recently, I was told that he didn't know of anyone that was willing to give theirs up. Mr. Romano – What about a swap? Mr. Bachand – But they will have to wait 10-11 months to receive it. Mr. Bumpus – I just hired Beta as my system engineer. I'd like to have the meter fit in before August. We already planned on a 2" bypass. We will probably sample on the 18th. I have a major power outage at one of my stations so we are going to sample that before we go down. THM, HH5 will be done

in mid-August will be in touch with you mid-August. I spoke with Dave today and was told there were no issues. Mr. Palimeri – I heard about a test that affected someone. Mr. Tracey – That was a couple weeks ago. Mr. Bumpus – That was my fault. We were pulling over 600 gallons per minute and ran Honey Dew out of water. We did the process again last Monday at less than 100 gals per minute with no issues. I will let you know when the bypass goes on. Mr. Tracey – Thank you Mike, appreciate it.

Signing of the MOU:

It was approved by the Selectboard. I would like permission to sign the MOU on behalf of the district and to sign the order for the new membranes. The MOU is an agreement between the Town and District to front us the money to get the ball rolling. Next spring, at the Town Meeting we divert money from the retained earnings to pay for this. This is what we always intended to do, it's just sooner than we planned. Mr. Palimeri – Retained earnings? Are they ours? Mr. Tracey – Yes. Mr. Palimeri – We must jump from Town Meeting to district? Mr. Romano – It's checks and balances. You can't spend anything in the Town of Carver without Town Meeting approval. Even though we are an Enterprise Fund we still have to do the same thing. Only Town Meeting can authorize the move of the money. Basically, the Town is lending us the money. In the spring we will move the money back to them. Mr. Palimeri – I will never understand it; but I wanted to make sure that the money is there. Mr. Romano – Under MGL, any money that comes out of the Reserve Fund must be an emergency and unforeseen. We knew it was coming but not as early as it did. Mr. Tracey – The Open Meeting Law prevents conversation outside of an open meeting. Mr. Palimeri – You can email. Mr. Tracey – Yes, but you are not allowed to respond. Mr. Romano explained the process of discussion after a motion / second as his motion wasn't recognized. Mr. Palimeri explained that he must do it his way as that is what makes sense to him. He is still bringing his knowledge up to speed. Mr. Romano – Just because a motion happens doesn't mean it will pass. When you have a motion on the table, you know exactly what you can discuss. Sometimes, through discussion, the motion will not pass.

*Motion to authorize Mr. Tracey to sign the MOU and sign the document to order the membranes: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

Rte. 44 Development, Urban Renewal Plan:

Mr. Tracey – They are probably going back to their permitting now that they have the zoning changes that they need. They will start working Site Plan Review. We are probably out several months and maybe break ground sometime next spring.

Service Connections on Santana Way:

Mr. Tracey – Steve, did you get that information to Amanda? Mr. Bachand – Yes. Mr. Tracey – Did you do meter readings; or did Middleboro do them? Mr. Bachand – I haven't heard

about Middleboro doing them. We did the last quarter. Mr. Tracey – I will touch base with them on that.

Discussion:

- Montello Street -
Mr. Tracey – They are doing landscape work so they are getting to the finish line. Mr. Bachand – We installed six meters the other day up on Plymouth Street and Hines Ave.

Mr. Tracey – Mr. Page is upset with Mr. Bachand and Mr. Palimeri. Mr. Bachand asked for clarification. Mr. Tracey – You mentioned at the last meeting about how he hadn't contacted you with regard to inspections. He states that you said you were okay with the work he was doing and would no longer need inspections. Mr. Bachand – He misunderstood; I was referring to the one he was doing only. Mr. Tracey – He would like a public apology from both of you; he feels like the quality of his work is being called into question. I have received pushback from the Health Agent, Plumbing Inspector and the Permitting Department about sleeving requirements. Our inspector has stated that it is harder to make them watertight with a sleeve and leaking could occur in the basement. Mr. Bachand – I stated that it was a good idea; I don't think I said it was required. Mr. Palimeri apologized to Mr. Page. In the Bocca code, it requires sleeving. Most jobs I have worked on it is in the details of the job that it will be sleeved or cored to a certain diameter so that you can make it watertight with water to expansion concrete or an approved seal. I apologize, I did misspeak as far as the application of the sleeve. I was very upset with how the line was run through my foundation, between three sharp rocks. I understand now that it was not in the plan, I apologize. Mr. Bachand – I apologize for the miscommunication on that; I think that there was a misunderstanding between us. I inspected his hole and he was all set and was told to keep going. His quality of work is fine. Mr. Palimeri – Other than me not liking the way the pipe was put into the foundation wall, I thought was fine. Mr. Tracey – I have never worked with Mr. Page personally but know lots of people who have and no one has anything bad to say about him. We did not take him off the Accepted Vendor List. Mr. Romano – I apologize for suggesting that we should withdraw him from that list.

Water Operator Report:

Mr. Bachand –

- We are running the plant twice a week. Mr. Tracey – Yes, it needs to stay operational. Mr. Bachand – We let it run for about 2 ½ hours to cycle through. We have water running through the chemical pumps to keep everything running. Mr. Tracey – That section of insulated pipe on Main Street has the potential to freeze in the Wintertime. We may want to draw more water through toward the treatment plant to keep the flow going on that section of pipe. Mr. Bachand – If we need to draw that we can crack that hydrant to keep the flow going. Mr. Tracey – It won't be enough of a draw to keep that

section from freezing; it is above frost grade. When we get closer, I will talk with Mike to see what they want to do to keep the flow and keep it from freezing.

Mr. Romano – Does the Middleboro water being on force water flow toward the plant?
Mr. Bachand – Yes, essentially it runs backwards. Mr. Romano – Will the wells freeze if we aren't using them? Mr. Bachand – We are using them; we are exercising them which will keep that from happening. Mr. Tracey – I heard that Middleboro will be picking up the meter reads? Mr. Romano – Our customers will pay them? Will Middleboro bill them? Mr. Tracey – No, they will send the information to us. Mr. Palimeri – We should get clarity on that. Mr. Bachand – Once the meter fit is done, they bill us and we bill the customer. Mr. Tracey – Which is what I anticipate in the future. Mr. Bachand – We can exercise it more frequently if needed, in the colder weather.

Mr. Palimeri – Do you have a set of as-builts for all the piping in the Water District? Mr. Bachand – Yes there are a couple plans at the plan that have all the piping. Mr. Palimeri – The new project? Mr. Bachand – When they are done, they should give you a copy of the new as-built. You should give us a copy to keep at the plant.

Bills Payable:

Mr. Romano – This is the last two warrants for FY22.

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1, in the amount of \$49,905.55 : Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion: I didn't realize that the insurance bill was a FY22 bill. In addition, there was an extra expense from SWSS.

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: Mr. Tracey – Deb at SWSS and I will be discussing the amount as there is now a decrease in time needed at the plant. We will discuss and vote, as a Board, at a later meeting.

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Minutes: June 13, 2022:

*Motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022, as written: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Correspondence:

Mr. Tracey –

- Elaine Weston is filling out the insurance renewal and needed some questions answered. I have forwarded this to SWSS. John Woods, Dave Siedentopf and Amanda Peckham were also copied on this particular email.
- We received a lot of emails regarding water issues.
- Mr. Fennessy and the Carver Selectboard sent a nice letter to the Middleboro Selectboard commending Mike Bumpus for his help.
- Water bill – We sent all the residents a case of water which was taken care of out of our budget for about \$1320.
- MIAA invoice has been paid.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Tracey -
- Mr. Romano - I think after today's meeting, I feel a little better about our situation. I was considering drafting an article to dissolve this Commission and give it back to the Selectboard. This could have been prevented, had we known about the money the District had. I don't think that anymore; we should keep this going. Mr. Tracey – I would say that the District could use a full-time superintendent. We need someone in house to coordinate. Mr. Romano – I really miss Jack Hunter; after he left, I felt we were abandoned. Mr. Palimeri – That was discussed in the action team meeting we had. There is a need to have a person that is already employed or a future employee. That would be part of their responsibility to be involved in the day to day. They would be the contact person. Why would a customer have to call SWSS? Mr. Tracey – Other than Mr. Siedentopf, who overlooks all the Operations and Maintenance in this Town, we don't have another individual. Mr. Palimeri – It was discussed to have this be part of an employee's job description in a part time Commissioners capacity. Mr. Tracey – Like

a part time Superintendent. Right now, this is falling on me and as I've said before, this can't be my full-time job; I already have one. I will touch base with Mr. Fennessy and see if we can figure that out.

- Mr. Palimeri – Regarding the Water District Action Team – I was asked to attend this meeting. They are introducing two forms of reverse 911 – hydrant flushing and water issues. They are looking into the feasibility to providing a lock on the hydrants. I don't agree with this and don't feel a lot of people are stealing water. A discussion was had about the need, Town wide, for grant writing and engineering services and split costs to do this work. There are millions of dollars available for all kinds of civic projects, including clean water and we don't take advantage of it. Mr. Tracey – We don't have a grant writer anymore. Mr. Palimeri – That's where the money is, in grants.

I spoke with some people – When I showed up at the Action Team meeting, I had no knowledge of this situation, there is no communication. I understand there are Open Meeting Law rules but there is nothing wrong with one-way emails. I ask you, Kevin, to start emailing us and keep us more informed. Mr. Tracey – I literally received that information late that afternoon. Mr. Palimeri – The whole month, there was a lot going on. There was a lot of communication that I wasn't aware of. I didn't ask to just be here for a couple of hours, once per month. We should all be informed as much as possible, in a timely manner. I want to know what is going on. Email us and let us know to not respond to the email. That was a rude awakening walking into that meeting; I had no clue what was going on. Mr. Romano – He has an excellent point. I sensed in the June meeting I feel like SWSS going back to the plant, they were doing something. It sounds like that was the start of the membrane problem. Mr. Tracey – No, that has been ongoing. Mr. Palimeri – This goes back to April when Hillwood was here. That is when the test occurred. That test run is what revealed the failure of those membranes. There was no communication outside of the monthly meeting. If SWSS reaches out to Mr. Tracey or anyone else in the Town, regarding the Water District, the rest of the Board should be informed. Mr. Romano – I do agree.

Next Meeting:

*Motion to hold our next meeting on August 8, 2022 at **5:00 PM**: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri*

Discussion: Mr. Palimeri will not be in attendance. Please note time change on meetings.

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 6:53 PM: Mr. Romano
Second: Mr. Palimeri
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*