



approved
9/12/22

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 August 15, 2022, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #4, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.

Attendees: Stephen P. Romano, Commissioner; Mike Palimeri, Commissioner

Absent:

Also present: Stephen Bachand, SWSS (via Phone); Kim and Deb from SWSS; Robert Fennessy, Town Administrator; Dave Siedentopf, Director of Operations and Maintenance

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM, by Mr. Romano, opened with the Pledge

Acceptance of Kevin Tracey's resignation:

Motion to accept the resignation of Kevin Tracey: Mr. Palimeri

Second: Mr. Romano

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Reorganization:

Motion to nominate Mr. Romano as the North Carver Water District Temporary Chairman: Mr.

Palimeri

Second: Mr. Romano

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Mr. Fennessy recommends the creation of a temporary Vice Chairman. Mr. Romano – I don't see that working and would like to table that. 1

Discussion:

- Middleboro Water Agreement – Mr. Siedentopf – NCWD agreed to pay for any expenditures from Middleboro. The first step is they marked it out; I reviewed on the Carver Side. The bypass was put in 3 weeks ago. There will be no interruption of water when they put the meter in. The meter pit will stay in even after the NCWD opens again. To my knowledge, we have one bill for police details. That was forwarded to Jill. They sent over the rates, which did not come from their superintendent. I think she sent the rates from the last time Carver took water from Middleboro. Mr. Bumpus will set the final rate. Mr. Palimeri – from what I understand, Middleboro has done a guesstimate and billed Carver rather than an actual reading. Mr. Siedentopf – I am not sure on that. Mr. Palimeri – The rate list that was sent was from 2014. Mr. Romano – I believe that, originally, we didn't have any billing software. They read our meters, they sent us the bills and we sent them out. I thought this time, Middleboro might read the meters; send us one bill based on their rates and then we would bill our customers or the second option would be to have Middleboro just bill directly. Middleboro needs to make that decision. I would think the Select Board on both sides should decide on that. Mr. Fennessy – I will have to look into that. Mr. Siedentopf – I will email Mr. Bumpus. Mr. Palimeri – I thought I saw an email indicating that we were sending them a code for our meters to be able to read them? Mr. Siedentopf – That was specific to Santana Way. Mr. Romano – Until we can bill, we need to find out how Middleboro wants to handle that. Mr. Fennessy – Dave Siedentopf will be the point person on that.

- Credits and appeals on billing -

Mr. Romano – Kevin mentioned this at the last meeting, regarding inserts into the bill. There was no motion and the bills were not mailed. The motion is for a 1/3rd credit only and nothing about an insert. There was a suggestion out of Mr. Fennessy's office about just inserting a line on the bill on what the rule was. Mr. Palimeri – This would be a credit for the month of June. Mr. Romano – Yes, just divide everyone that gets a bill should be divided by 3 and subtract that third. Mr. Palimeri – Billing cycle should be 4 months instead of 3 months. Mr. Romano – We need to modify the last motion.

*Motion to modify the past motion to take the billing cycle of 4 months and divide by 4 and giving a credit of one month. Also, add in the bill, the paragraph pertaining to putting it in writing to get additional credits on their bill: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano*

*Discussion:
Approved: Unanimous (2-0)*

Update from Small Water Systems Services:

- Water Operator Report – Everything is as it was. We run the plant a couple of times per week just to keep everything moving.
- Membrane update – Debbie – Joyce in our office is in regular contact with the Suez Company. They called to inform her that it will be less than a year and may only be 5-6 weeks for us to get the new membranes. She indicated that someone else had ordered but backed out of it. They can be installed by October. This makes things much easier. Joyce was concerned that there would be an issue with budgeting. Mr. Fennessy – We can handle that the same way we were going to do it.

*Motion to pay half of the cost for the new membranes in the amount of \$102,583.48: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano*

Discussion – Mr. Romano – Is that just the cost of the membranes? Mr. Bachand – That is the complete project. Mr. Romano – The estimate that I have, dated April is \$3K less than this current estimate. Deb – Pricing updates were delayed due to Covid.

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

- SWSS Contracting –
Deb Trumbull - NCWD contract ended on June 30, 2022. We were asked to give an extension, which we gave. It was broken down by the individual wells in Town. I will send that to the Board tomorrow. The contract bid that is out now, includes the two schools; the schools' former contracts also ended on June 30. I was going to recommend to the Board that we bill for two hours per visit per school. Mr. Romano – The schools do not fall into our District. Mr. Siedentopf – That would be a separate conversation with me.

Mr. Romano – Our share of the monthly bill (\$6K per month) is paid every month. Now, you are only in there a couple of days a week; are you charging us the same? Deb – That wouldn't be fair. Mr. Fennessy – Could you send an invoice for services, for now? Deb – Yes, we can do that. We will break down the services by location so that Dave can assign costs. Mr. Palimeri – When we are back online, we can revisit.

Bills Payable:

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1, in the amount of \$8151.78: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Minutes: July 11, 2022:

*Motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2022, as written: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Correspondence:

Mr. Romano – Email received from Kevin regarding the Mass DEP which was also sent to SWSS. Mr. Palimeri – Regarding the level discussed at the last meeting.

Deb – When we discussed the membrane delay of year, we discussed cleaning the wells. Now that they are arriving sooner, do we still want to do that? We will use the well contractor that we have used before. Mr. Palimeri – I would like to see that the whole system is in the best condition possible. Mr. Romano – Do we need to frack again? Deb – We need to bring up the documents again and review that. Mr. Romano – In the 9 years I have been on the Board we have fracked at least two times. It might be something we look at while it is down. Deb – I would ask Stephen and his crews to look at everything that needs attention prior to the membranes being installed.

*Motion to do any preventative maintenance of the wells up to and including fracking and cleaning, prior to turning it back on: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano
Approved: Unanimous (2-0)*

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Palimeri – If we were to be billed by Middleboro for water, there is quite a difference of the charges of what we charge and what they charge. Middleboro grants more water per residence (3Xs). We charge on the meter size and include 1,000 gallons of water. Based on the information I have (dated 2014), they charge on the meter size and include 500 cubic feet, which is approximately 3,700+ (7.48 gallons per cubic foot) gallons of water. Their rate after that is \$3.69 between 5 - 25 cubic feet and then 25 - 250 cubic feet is an additional \$5.81. We charge \$9.90 per 1000 gallons. My thoughts are to turn billing over to Middleboro and pay their rate. I would also like to adopt their rate for the future. I wanted that out there for future discussion. Deb – How many customers does Middleboro have?
Mr. Siedentopf – Most of the Town is on their system. I would guess that they have about 10,000-15,000. Ms. Trumbull -They have a lot more consumers so they can be

cheaper. Mr. Palimeri – This is a lot cheaper. Everyone around us charges by cubic feet; we also need to read and bill in cubic feet. Mr. Romano – It would be wrong for us to pay Middleboro their rate and then charge our customers our rate. Mr. Siedentopf – We need to wait and see what Middleboro is going to charge.

- Mr. Romano - This is my last meeting. I will be resigning at the conclusion of this meeting. I have been dealing with Town Hall since 1988. I think we need new blood in here. Now is the time to give someone the opportunity to learn everything, while the plant is down. Mr. Palimeri – The stuff in the past will get lost but we will muddle through unless you want to stay another month or two. Mr. Romano – No. When I was the Treasurer / Collector, I still communicated with staff. I am available to answer questions. Mr. Fennessy – You are a gentleman and you've put your time in. The Towns people really appreciate that. I tried to get you to stay on but appreciate you taking the time to attend this meeting.

Next Meeting:

*Our next meeting will be joint with the Selectboard on September 6, 2022 at **TBD**: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (2-0)

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 5:52 PM: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Romano
Approved: Unanimous (2-0)*