

approved
11/1/22



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 October 3, 2022, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #4, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.

Attendees: Mike Palimeri, Chairman; Eric Mueller, Vice Chairman; Doug Ficks, Commissioner

Absent:

Also present: Stephen Bachand, SWSS

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM, by Mr. Palimeri

Mr. Palimeri – Last week, the Selectboard/NCWD Joint Meeting voted unanimously to appoint Doug Ficks as the third Board Member. Eric and I fully endorsed the appointment and working with Doug. It is nice to have a full Board.

Discussion:

- Rules and Regulations –

Mr. Palimeri explained to Doug that as the Board is new, they would collectively review and discuss. I feel that the existing rules were boiler plate from other communities. We have a lot of rules that are not adhered to, for example, As-Built drawings are not being provided and/or signed off on. Mr. Mueller – Yes, we can take our time and review them. Then we can address any items that needed to be looked at. Mr. Ficks – On the last two projects, were there any inspectors on site? Mr. Palimeri – Small Waters/Stephen takes care of that and does do the inspections. Mr. Bachand – Yes, I have inspected the Rte. 44 project and all of the tie-ins going in. Mr. Ficks – Do you do the As-Built? Mr. Bachand – The Town takes care of that. I just make sure they are putting them in the ground properly and back filling properly. Mr. Palimeri – It is the contractor that should be doing that. The contractor that is doing the tie-in's right now, under contract with the Board of Health is providing a copy to the Board of Health. At

the end of the day, the Board of Health should be turning a copy over to the NCWD. In an emergency, the DPW, SWSS and the NCWD needs to have access to these. This will remain in the agenda for several months as we work through it.

Route 44 Development, Urban Renewal Plan:

Mr. Palimeri – I have not received any updates on that.

Update from Small Water Systems Services:

Mr. Bachand –

- You have my reports for the membranes. There were no issues.
- Myself and Phil did an inspection for the entire plant. You have a detailed report; there is not much that needs to be fixed. There is only one that you will need a price on, Item 9 – the blower, as it is around \$2000.
- This Thursday, we will clean the big tanks out.
- *What you should do on site visits to keep everything up* – The issue right now is that the cleaning place skid does not work. Once that is up and running, there will be no issues going forward.

Mr. Mueller – For budget purposes, what should we figure for a time window? Mr. Bachand – I would say around year 8. Even if you get them early, they will store fine. Life expectancy is around 10 years. If you budget in year 8; order them in year 9 and then you have them in before you need them. Mr. Palimeri – Is the system designed so that you are able to indicate the decline based on measurements of manganese and iron? Mr. Bachand – That is the result of it. There are tests that the machine itself runs, but doesn't work right now. You will see some numbers go up and other numbers decline, which is what tells you that you are starting to have issues. Mr. Palimeri – That is something that different meetings throughout this building, the departments within this building and this Board; we are all here for the same thing – We will look at ways that we can improve and maintain the physical assets of the plant vs watching it deteriorate. Mr. Bachand – The biggest thing is getting that CIP skid up and running. Can I get the okay to get a dumpster? Mr. Palimeri – Yes.

Motion to have Mr. Bachand get a dumpster at the plant: Mr. Mueller

Second: Mr. Ficks

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Mr. Mueller – Are you getting bids for the blower? Mr. Bachand – There is only one quote as it can only come from one place. The quote came in around \$1200. Mr. Palimeri – You'll get that to Jill? Mr. Bachand – Yes. Mr. Mueller – It is in stock? Mr. Bachand – Yes.

Discussion:

- Credits and appeals on billing –

Mr. Palimeri – Because of the incidents we've had in June/July and switching over to Middleboro, many things are in play. One of the issues was helping customers purchase bottled water. There has been some confusion on the process. We have paid some claims. It came to my attention that at the Joint Meeting 6/23/22 between the Select board and the Water Commissioners, a woman in the background indicated that she didn't save her receipts. Someone from the Town said that they were not worried about receipts. Therefore, I reached out to Jill and told her that we were no longer going to worry about receipts. Mr. Mueller and Mr. Ficks were okay with this.

- Possible Feasibility Study –

Mr. Mueller – With the everything going on with the North Carver project, the recent updates to the plant and the current design capacity, we might want to sit down with the Town Planner, Town Administrator and SWSS. We should look at the overall design and capacity limits. Based on the information I've reviewed, we will be at 90-95% capacity to our water system, if that project in North Carver. That leave little for future development. I know there is a development plan for Carver and they've had some ideas. With the Town Administrator, we should look at the revenue generation and what it will bring in and what it will bring in for customers, as well, for North Carver and if we are going to be restricted with what we have. I wanted to put this on the agenda now, rather than waiting until something develops up North and then we are capped off and can't supply water to anyone else that wants to come into Town. If we can open up that Small Water System up north and create more water, so be it. We do need to look at it now rather than later. Mr. Bachand – You have blanks in your trains right now, the train capacity can do about 20K more per day. Mr. Mueller – So 120K per day total? Mr. Bachand – But we have to look at what your pumps can put out. SWSS – What is the current pumping limit with the current wells? Mr. Mueller – I think we are limited to about 100K per day, with two wells. Mr. Palimeri – That is an issue for a geological study and DEP involvement to see if we can get a permit to increase capacity in the existing wells or drive a third. That is quite a task. Mr. Mueller – If we get everyone involved soon, we can begin discussion on that.

What is the future for NCWD, with its current infrastructure and water supply commitments?

Mr. Mueller – The infrastructure has been updated; we are adding all of the services in Town. With the commitments to the project in North Carver, we will be at the threshold. Moving forward, we need to review everything.

What are the impacts to future development in North Carver in its current state; what are the Towns' expectations on development?

Mr. Mueller – This ties into the previous two subjects.

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

Mr. Palimeri – Last Friday, I had a meeting at 10am with the TA, Dave Siedentopf, Jim McLaughlin, DEP and another gentleman from the DEP. Dave and the DEP have had discussion on issues in another part of Town that does not concern the North Carver Water District. The District came up and it was suggested that we meet.

A lot of things came up. Because I am new to this, some of it is not familiar to me. The biggest thing I got out of it is; before the plant failed, the DEP was going to start down the road of enforcement of the NCWD from all of the complaints they had been receiving and lack of cooperation and transparency with the Town and the NCWD. Since the issue of the plant failing has come up, DEP has decided to back off and will be giving us a chance to work as a team. Including the NCWD, SWSS, the Selectboard, Town Administrator and Dave Siedentopf. They want us to come up with a plan. He brought up many issues, including the lack of a water tower. His belief is between the wells, the plant and lack of a pressurized system, in his mind, the system is maxed out. He is looking for us to change that. He wants to make sure some procedures are addressed during this outage –

1. Protocols for testing alarms quarterly but monthly is better
2. Chemical Alarms
3. Water level alarms
4. Audit system for the District and for SWSS
5. Grants and funding at the State and Federal level. Carver has never used any of these funds. It's up to us to go after them; he is willing to help. A lot of these funds are a low rate loan, tied to a point system. A water tower is not guaranteed from Hillwood; we need to look into how to possibly get that without them. We can no longer get by without one. Because we have never had a water tower, it may increase our points and give us access to more money. He did provide us with some names to reach out to that have done systems similar to ours. They are mostly down on the cape.

The meeting was about two hours long. He is willing to give the new Board a try. He wants us to be proactive. We did discuss capacity; which he was already aware of. Mr. Mueller – Was the Town Administrator there? Mr. Palimeri – Yes. The Town Administrator reassured the DEP that the Town Administrator and the Selectboard are now fully invested to make sure that

Financial obligations of the District since inception -

Mr. Mueller – Originally, the NCWD was funded in some way and I know we have been generating revenue and paying down debt. I think that is something that when we move forward and sit down with the right parties, we can find out where we are at with all of that. I don't even know if the debt is paid off. Mr. Palimeri – To the best of my knowledge, it is not. There was not much communication on how this all works. I think we would all like to change that. The Town Administrator is setting up a training class for the three of us. It will be all about finances for the District – How the finances of the NCWD work; where does the income go; what do we pay for; where do the funds go, etc. He is hoping for some time this month.

Minutes: August 15, 2022 and September 12, 2022:

*Motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022, as written: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Mueller – The meeting that we need to have with the TA and Planning should probably be a joint meeting; maybe include finance and Dave Siedentopf as well. Mr. Palimeri – I have been assured that the money to pay for this outage is reserved in an account. We will need approval at the Town Meeting to use that money so we will borrow money from the Town and then pay it back at the Town Meeting.
- Mr. Palimeri –
 - SWSS Are we still looking at November? Mr. Bachand – We are still waiting for that part; probably the end of November. Mr. Palimeri – The most important thing is to get everything done that needs to be done. Mr. Bachand – Do you want to start it up at the beginning of the month? Mr. Palimeri – I don't think that matters. It might be easier but isn't that important.
 - I also want to make very clear that the Board is limited to conversation outside of a meeting. As long as it is a one sided conversation, it should be fine. If something comes across, I may inform you about it but request no reply. I want you all to be informed.
 - There is also a training coming up for Open Meeting Law with the Town's law firm. This is a one hour session.
- Mr. Ficks -

Next Meeting:

NORTH CARVER WATER DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES 10/3/2022

Our next meeting will be held on November 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Correspondence:

Mr. Palimeri – We received three emails.

1. One is taken care of – we have already discussed the receipt for water bottle purchase
2. The second issue was about someone paying a bill in person. They want to know why they are still paying the Carver water rate when the Middleboro rate is less. The answer to that is we are paying Middleboro what our rate is. There is no rate difference when we go to Middleboro water.
3. A customer emailed about the cost of keeping their commercial equipment up and running due to ongoing sediment issues before switching over to Middleboro water. That was in the R&R about appeals process and does not fit into the bottled water for residents. I wanted to assure that person that when they send an email to the Town Hall, I am copied on that email.

Bills Payable:

Mr. Palimeri – We only have one packet tonight; there are usually two packets. After discussion, it was determined that SWSS hadn't submitted an invoice for this meeting. They are charging us time and material for now. There is a lag period as they weren't under contract when all this happened. Since then, the contract was signed. After further review, Mr. Palimeri read a letter received from Jill Bagni of SWSS. Apparently a voided invoice in the amount of \$10,400 was payed in error. Rather than return that amount, SWSS applied it to the October bill, leaving a balance of \$16.67.

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1, in the amount of \$4,646.09: Mr. Ficks
Second: Mr. Mueller*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

*Motion to pay the SWSS bill in Batch #2, in the amount of \$10.00: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 6:00 PM: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*