

approved 2/15/23



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 January 3, 2023, The North Carver Water District Commissioners met, today, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #3, 108 Main Street, Carver, Massachusetts.

This meeting is also being videotaped and rebroadcast by Area 58 TV.

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

Absent:

Also present:

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

Agenda taken out of order at Chairmans Discretion -

Update from Small Water Systems Services:

- Water Operator Report –

Mr. Palimeri - Are we still going to be able to bring the plant back on line by the end of January? Greg, SWSS – From the info we have we should be able to do that. We will have to make sure everything is compliant first. Mr. Palimeri – I spoke with Mr. Bachand a couple of weeks ago. We want to run the plant first before a roll out to the residents. That should take a couple of days to do. SWSS, Greg – Yes, Iron and manganese testing will take 2-3 days. Mr. Palimeri – We want to go online regardless of the billing cycle. We will make sure everything meets requirements, before we move forward. Mr. Mueller – Are we charging the regular rate. Mr. Palimeri – Yes, and that is what we pay Middleboro. We will have to read meters as we will be responsible for that.

Mr. Ficks – Is there a meter from Middleboro to Carver? Mr. Palimeri – No, there is not. They had begun the process but there was a town line issue. Middleboro wants the meter in Middleboro. In the future, Middleboro will have an actual meter.

Mr. Palimeri – 12/21/22 – I received a copy of an email in regards to a compliance failure. The NCWD was not part of the original email on this. I only found out about it because Andrew requested us to send the bills out. I would like to have the NCWD included in all future emails. I would also like the testing schedule emailed to Jill which will then be forwarded to us. This would allow us to set up a calendar for reminders in the future. SWSS – I believe we have done your schedule. I will make sure you all get a copy and I will remind the staff to keep you updated. Mr. Palimeri – Thank you. Please keep us informed on any updates with the reopening. SWSS left the meeting.

- Backflow billing – We will discuss further with SWSS at the next meeting.

Mr. Palimeri – There has been a lot of issues with meters – no radio transmitters. There are some that need repair / replacements. Some issues were with the billing company and not billing properly; this is a software issue, not an issue with the meter. Cornerstones needs a repair/replacement. I told Mr. Bachand to replace it if it's in rough shape. He indicated that he doesn't have that meter. I told him that we need one of each meter that we have in Town, to be in stock.

Mr. Mueller – Commercial/industrial survey? Mr. Palimeri – We have about 12-13 backflows that need to be surveyed. If you are a commercial entity and you are required to have a backflow survey, you can do it yourself, but the paperwork needs to be provided to us. Mr. Mueller – Who's responsibility is it to enforce? Mr. Ficks – It varies from town to town. Mr. Palimeri – SWSS should handle that. I do have a list that I will get to you.

Discussion:

- Rules and Regulations –

Mr. Palimeri - 13 Green Street, multi-family residential dwelling. I received a call regarding water. 2 days later, I noticed a pile of soil. Our working rules and regulations states that we should be notified. I stopped and did an inspection. The work looked good but we should be notified. Mr. Mueller – Is there something for guidance for homeowners out there? Mr. Palimeri – I want to go to the Building Department. I would like a developer and/or homeowner to pull a permit in the billing department. We need to be included in the process. I spoke to the Facilities Manager; I explained how it should have been. Our Rules & Regulations state that a developer can have their own contractor but they are supposed to let us know so we can do an inspection. We are also supposed to be provided with an as-built. Mr. Mueller – I will work on that to create a process.

Mr. Palimeri – Now, we have a new customer and will be seeing something on that. The gentleman that I spoke with said that he will reach out to the Town regarding installation of a meter. Mr. Ficks – Is there a betterment fee? Mr. Palimeri – Not that I am aware of. Mr. Mueller – I will look into that.

Mr. Palimeri – We need to work with other departments in Town regarding as-builts as well as inspections.

Route 44 Development, Urban Renewal Plan:

Mr. Palimeri – Nothing tonight

Discussion:

- Charging a minimum water usage fee for new customers receiving water with a bad meter and/or having a meter without a radio transmitter –

Mr. Palimeri –

The Plymouth Street water main extension was paid for by the Town. When that job was done, there was already a supply shortage. The meters and radio transmitters are manufactured by two different companies. We received the meters but the transmitters were delayed. Some people have both installed, some do not. The Health Agent was the one contacting the homeowners; he reached out to me and felt it was best for SWSS to handle it. SWSS agreed. They have a list of the homes that need a transmitter installed on their existing meter.

I would like to open a discussion. If the meter is installed and you are getting water, each customer should be charge the minimum water usage. Mr. Ficks – We don't want it going on for a long time. Mr. Palimeri – SWSS has the transmitters now. Mr. Ficks – We don't want the customer to be shocked by a larger bill. Mr. Mueller – We are starting a new cycle now; there should be plenty of time to get them all installed. I am fine with that for this quarter. Mr. Palimeri – SWSS will reach out and schedule appointments

*Motion to keep the minimum charge through the current quarter for those houses with no transmitters: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks*

Discussion – Mr. Ficks - Is there a way to indicate that on the bill? Mr. Palimeri – I can reach out to the office. They can do a message.

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Repair / Replace various water meters -

See backflow discussion

Bills Payable:

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #1 for SWSS, in the amount of \$6,250.00: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

*Motion to pay the bill in Batch #2, in the amount of \$8931.15: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Ficks*

Discussion: Mr. Mueller— We need to work with finance on the phone bill.

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Minutes: December 6, 2022:

*Motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022, as written: Mr. Ficks
Second: Mr. Mueller*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Correspondence:

Mr. Palimeri – I shared some emails from SWSS regarding testing.

There were some comments on Social Media that I would like to address.

- There was an issue regarding a customer being notified by SWSS to take a water sample but they never came to pick it up. SWSS said it's random. They didn't get enough of a response, so they sent out more.
- They were testing water at the plant last May. They were late doing it and late reporting it to the DEP. As discussed tonight, we will be getting a list of scheduled testing so we can avoid that in the future. Mr. Mueller – When did the system go down? Mr. Palimeri – I believe the end of June.
- Mr. Mueller – I spoke with Deb about the issue with billing and they are fixing that. The existing software no longer updates; they are working on a new system.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Mueller – Discussion on the water service that was leaking. Mr. Ficks – That is all taken care of. Mr. Palimeri – We still need to vote on it. This was an issue at the last meeting for 1 Braddock Way. The resident is a senior citizen and is receiving the reduced rate. Her normal bill is roughly \$27.59 plus usage. I gave you all copies. Traditionally, she didn't have usage charges as she doesn't use a lot of water. There isn't much we can do other than having her pay the minimum charge and to waive any demand fees.

Motion to have 1 Braddock Way pay the minimum charges that she was originally paying for each quarter and waive the demand fees: Mr. Mueller

Second: Mr. Ficks

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Mr. Mueller – Is there any way for people to reach someone if there is a concern? Mr. Palimeri – Most questions go to Billing or Jill. If they have a concern, they can also reach out to SWSS. The bills (for at least the last two cycles and going forward) are printed with a SWSS contact phone number for the residents to reach out.

- Mr. Palimeri – It is my goal that we are all informed. If I have information, I share it, but there is no group conversation. There is no violation of the Open Meeting Law.
- Mr. Ficks - Nothing tonight.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM

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

Nothing Tonight.

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 5:48 PM: Mr. Palimeri
Second: Mr. Mueller
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*

EXHIBITS:

A: STANDARD CONTRACT WITH SWSS
B: R&R OF THE NCWD AUTHORITY