

approved 7/10/22



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 June 29, 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; Phil Shannon, Commissioner

Absent:

Also present:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM, by Mr. Palimeri

Bills Payable:

Mr. Palimeri - These are bills that we do not want to roll over to the next fiscal year. We do have some money put aside.

Mr. Mueller – Backflow preventers –

We are getting invoiced for commercial properties bi-annual testing. Are we doing the billing out of this office? Mr. Palimeri – There was a change in personnel at SWSS. The person that used to handle that at SWSS used to handle things differently. I will follow up on that, but I believe it is billed on their invoice.

Mr. Palimeri – There were issues with lighting at the plant. Lighting was needed in the back by the chemical tank. The DPW sent someone out. They have lights now but the lights/ballasts are obsolete so we will need to look at updating that soon.

Solare America – Mr. Mueller – I am hoping after the books are closed, she will have some data for us to look at.

Mr. Shannon – Device that failed, will they replace it? Mr. Mueller – They will rebuild if possible but it may be necessary to replace. They will need to retest. Mr. Palimeri – It depends on what the failure is. That is the property of the business owner so it would be their responsibility.

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

Discussion: Normal services from SWSS

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #2, in the amount of \$22,658.88: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Shannon*

Discussion: This batch had a lot of Analytical costs, lab work to submit to the North Carver Water District and DEP. There was a lot more analytical work over the last month. Backflow devices, which we will recoup from the customer on the next billing cycle, and a few extra services from SWSS.

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Negotiations with the Town of Middleboro –

Mr. Palimeri –

July 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023 payment due for supplying water to the Town of Carver. We were supposed to have a meeting to finalize what this bill is, last Tuesday. We weren't able to do that for numerous reasons. We are working on getting some information. The Town of Middleboro has meters for what is being fed up Plymouth Street, in Middleboro. They can use them to average usage by using history. They can then take the average (daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually) to see how much more water is flowing through that meter since Carver went onto Middleboro water and come up with a usage. The usage given to us from Middleboro was for the first six months (through 12/2022) is about 9.7 Million gallons. The additional six months I would assume to be around the same. Their rate for us is 1.5 X the rate of what Middleboro residents pay. I have spent some time looking at this. Middleboro provides quality water; Carver water is very expensive.

Middleboro's base rate for ¾" water meter, they allow 250 cubic feet (about 3700 gallons) of water, Carver's base rate, for same size meter, allows 1000 gallons of water. If you are a Carver resident, and you want to pay the get the same amount of water as Middleboro (in their first tier of water), it will cost Carver Residents almost \$29 more. Per customer, it is about 10-12% more. We have to pay that bill but we don't have the money to pay that bill which will cause a special Town Meeting.

At the last meeting, there was the Town Administrator, the Water Commissioner and the Public Works Director from Middleboro. Carver – Town Administrator, Dave Siedentopf, myself and Greg Corbo, KP Law.

We signed off in February to allow Greg Corbo to negotiate on behalf of Middleboro, NCWD and the Town of Carver the cost of putting in the meter. At the meeting, KPLaw came with the meter pit, how much we are going to pay and how we are going to pay it, all without discussion. I don't know how this works with one attorney for all three entities. Mr. Mueller – I think it's a conflict of interest. They want us to pay for the entire meter project? Mr. Palimeri – Yes, that was always the case; Middleboro has always wanted a meter. It was agreed upon the night they turned the water on. We are going to pay for it. Decisions are being made for the NCWD without our involvement. Last month, the Selectboard approved a rate increase for KP Law for legal service for the North Carver Water District. It's frustrating; I don't think its malicious but when

ultimately, it's supposed to be us and we aren't involved in these decisions, it's frustrating. I have made it clear that I am available.

Mr. Mueller – Any decision that has anything to do with the NCWD should have this board involved. Can we talk to the Town Administrator and let him know moving forward we need to be involved in every decision.

Mr. Palimeri – I think we need a meeting with the Town Administrator. I have a good working relationship with Bob Fennessey. Mr. Mueller – The contract with SWSS was redone without our involvement. The new rate for KPLaw and the NCWD did not involve us. It's a good time to have the Town Administrator in for a discussion on how to move forward.

Mr. Palimeri – We borrowed money from ARPA fund for the filters, the money sitting in a side account to budget for that kind of thing, is not accessible. We don't have anything in our budget. I have had many conversations but am not getting anywhere. Sue Moquin indicated that we would need a Special Town Meeting. At the last meeting I attended, they were talking the cost of the water usage is estimated to be about \$410K; in addition, the new meter pit will probably exceed the estimate of \$85K. I think it will be over \$125K. The priority needs to be water bill. The pit won't be in for a while.

Our next meeting with the Town of Middleboro will be on Friday, July 7, 2023.

Mr. Palimeri - The Finance and Billing Department just recently emailed the meter readings to Middleboro. Based on that we can negotiate what was used. Mr. Mueller – If they could pull The usage July – December and then January through June (as the usage will be different). Mr. Palimeri - There was an issue with meter reads. The two representatives from SWSS were at the Selectboard meeting and assumed Middleboro would read the meters as it was Middleboro water. Since that time, they have been read (on June 1, 2023) and we will use that. We have another read for July coming up. Where there isn't a correct meter read, estimates will be needed. For example, there are equipment issues (radios not installed or not working properly), that will be averaged for multiple customers. Equipment was delayed due to COVID. The equipment has since been received and installed but in some cases, they are not reading correctly, so those customers have been estimated for the last year. What do you use for calculating the average for residential property? There are a lot of opinions out there. Our Billing Department software is not set up for that.

Mr. Shannon – At the last meeting I asked if the new meter pit would flow both ways. I asked that just so that if they needed water, we could provide them with water. Mr. Palimeri – There is a by-pass, but I don't think the new meter pit will be configured that way. In addition, Middleboro uses chlorine; their system works completely different.

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

Mr. Mueller – Any feedback on households with the system up and running? We had some issues up in North Carver. Mr. Palimeri – Those are all set. I have been working with SWSS and the DPW Director of Carver; we have an area including 13 Green St, 170 Plymouth Street, and up to my house, we still do not have clear water. After Lakenham Green the water runs up to the new condo units (old church) and then up Green Street, by Bed and Breakfast. It deadheads a little after Captain Perkins and then at Hines Ave. Mr. Mueller – Can they Flush? Mr. Palimeri – Yes, at hydrants. Without a tower, we can't flush like you would normally. SWSS has been very responsive to coming down and flushing. I have spoken with the homeowner at 170 Plymouth Street; and the tenants at 13 Green Street. SWSS is still troubleshooting. There is so much grit in water at 170 Plymouth you would think there was a break in the line but they say they didn't have the issue before switching back. Mr. Mueller – There must be a collection area and bend in

the pipe somewhere. Do we have a map of the water line. Mr. Palimeri – We don't have a complete map, no as-builts.

Mr. Palimeri - When they flushed the system, I was told they were going to run it at full pressure. There was always a valve up somewhere between Noria and Tractor Supply that could be shutdown first. When they redid the intersection, they paved over the valve box. They weren't able to do what they needed to do as they couldn't access the box. SWSS operators have been in contact and spoken to the tenant in 13 Green and the owner of 170 Plymouth. I have reached out to those that I have contact information for. There is another issue with brown water being reported on Arrowhead.

Mr. Palimeri – I question whether the average customer now, is receiving the same quality water they were receiving before the plant failed? Mr. Mueller – Do they test monthly? Mr. Palimeri – I don't know which tests they do. We did a lot of extra testing since these issues came up. Mr. Mueller – Can they test at the plant before it gets into the piping? Mr. Palimeri – Yes, they can and they do; they say it is clear. I took a sample off the test port, just before it goes underground. I didn't find it to be clear. They call it "in solution" Sometimes it looks good at first but when you let it set for a day or two, you'll start to see changes – yellow, then sediment. Any house affected is using bottled water and I have told them to turn in their receipts. SWSS has been responsive. I would like someone to review the plant to decide if this plant is up to the task. I think there is a secondary filter missing at this plant.

Mr. Mueller – I would like to make sure the Town Administrator is invited to our next meeting. Mr. Palimeri – I reached out to the Town Administrator and to Sue MoQuin to attend this meeting but they weren't available. I will ask about our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting will tentatively be held on July 11, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 6:29 PM: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Shannon
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*