



Approved
8/14/23

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 July 10, 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: Bob Fennessey, Town Administrator; Sue Moquin, Finance Director

Also present: Stephen Bachand, Greg from SWSS, via phone

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

Discussions –

- **Rules and Regulations:**

Mr. Palimeri - Nothing tonight

- **Water Service Application:**

Mr. Mueller - I will check with Jill tomorrow. Mr. Palimeri – I want to make sure that one of the Water Commissioners is notified and signs off on it.

Bills Payable:

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

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

*Motion to pay the bills in Batch #2, in the amount of \$375.00: Mr. Shannon
Second: Mr. Mueller*

Discussion: Analytical work and Recording Secretary

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

DISCUSSION

Update from Small Water Systems Services:

Mr. Bachand, SWSS and Greg from SWSS -

- Water Operator's Report – Plant is running okay. We are seeing quality improvement each day. We are doing things in pretreatment.
- Outage – Two of our VFDs were in fault; EMPY came out and says that #1 needs to be replaced and #2 should also be replaced due to age. I have a quote that I will pass along via email. We have two pumps out of the three available.
- July 3 – We had a plastic air line that split. This feeds to all of the valves that are essential for production in the membranes. This line has since been replaced and have had no further issue.

Mr. Palimeri – What did EMPY say caused the failure of the VFDS? Mr. Bachand – They feel it was from a surge from the storm.

Mr. Palimeri – I would like to make time to locate the shutoff valve that was paved over. Mr. Bachand – Yes, we went out with a metal detector find it we will need to jackhammer it out.

Questions/Comments –

Tara Stone, 10 Lakenham Drive – When will we be getting clear water and better water pressure? Mr. Bachand – The pressure will not change. We are continuing to work on the clarity. It seems that it is spotty. Ms. Stone – All of the toilets and sink are stained. Some days it is clearer than others, but we've never had this staining before. Also, not once while on the Middleboro water. Mr. Bachand – We are trying. Ms. Stone – That is not good enough. We are back on for the last 5 weeks and have had lots of issues. I heard that Middleboro approached the Town of Carver for a contract is that true? Mr. Palimeri – No. Mr. Mueller – Is SWSS testing right at the plant? Mr. Bachand – Yes, those tests are showing what Ms. Stone has indicated. Mr. Palimeri – I have been in contact with SWSS, almost daily. It comes down to the plant. The plant is operating the way it is supposed to operate. The pressure is what we have as we do not have a water tower. Ms. Stone – I can personally live with the pressure but not the discoloration. What has changed? We've never had so many issues. Mr. Palimeri – You indicated that prior to the last year and a half, the water was never this discolored? Ms. Stone – Yes, except when the water went out, it would take a couple days to clear. Something is different; I should not have to scrub my appliances every day. The Town should be installing filtration systems to deal with this. I would also like to thank Amanda in Billing for getting communications out. Mr. Palimeri – I am glad to hear that. Greg and Steve, at some point should we be talking to Suez? Steve – We can talk to them and see if they can come down. We know the system, but the filter system is new. It takes time, every time a change is made, it takes two weeks to get testing results. Mr. Mueller – Have they been tracking anything? Mr. Palimeri – A lot of times the customer is not always reading the emails. We put information on the Town Of Carver Website and the NCWD website. Ms. Stone – I think the communication is better but we were only on the Carver system for a month before

more issues began. Mr. Palimeri – Unfortunately, things do break. I understand the frustration; we didn't have tubing on hand. Ms. Stone – The recovery time was quicker than I anticipated but I still have stains, eight days later. Mr. Palimeri – I have talked with Greg and Steve about dialing in chemicals. They adjust the chemicals a little at a time and then have to wait for test results. Sediment in the pipe is still moving along. It is slowly working through the system. Your neighborhood has always had issues. The property is up hill and the system is dead ended. Mr. Bachand – There are three areas that are having issues; we can do an overnight flush on those lines to see if we can clear out those lines. We will do it slow but it will still affect pressure. Mr. Palimeri – I would like to give that some thought and have discussion with the other Commissioners. Historically, doing that causes more issues. Ms. Stone – When should I no longer have any stains? Mr. Bachand – I can't answer that. If there is a low pocket over near you, that could be where you are getting all that sediment from. Other sections of town do not have any issues. Lakenham is dead ended. Ms. Stone – My neighbors could not be here tonight but they are having issues too. Something is wrong. Mr. Bachand – It's so random where they are getting stained water. Mr. Palimeri –

Mr. Fennessey – Can you scope and put a camera in the system to check? Mr. Bachand – You'd have to drain the system as it is under pressure. Mr. Palimeri – We have limited isolation valves. Mr. Bachand – You would have to shut off at the intersection by Cumberland Farms.

Ms. Stone – Is the Town still looking to expand this? Mr. Palimeri – No, you are probably referring to when Plymouth Street and Captain Perkins were hooked up due to contamination. Ms. Stone – How many customers do you have in total? Mr. Bachand – About 113. Ms. Stone – Who would I talk to about reimbursement for a filtration system? Mr. Palimeri – As of now, budget wise, we wouldn't be able to do that. Mr. Mueller – As far as the chemical imbalance that SWSS is trying to balance, that has to do with iron, correct? Mr. Bachand – That's correct. Mr. Palimeri – I will be in touch about the flushing.

Ms. Stone – Is the Town happy with SWSS? The residents are not. Mr. Palimeri – It is the plant. That plant was built specifically to provide water to a small customer base to meet DEP Standards. There is no secondary filter system. There is no water tower; so, pressure is not good. If we were to open up the hydrant, it would collapse the system. Ms. Stone – People were opening it up before we switched over to Middleboro; can they still do that? Mr. Palimeri – No it is set up so that they can no longer do that. That happened for Town projects that the Town, not the North Carver Water District, approved use. Ms. Stone – Are there capacity issue? Mr. Palimeri – The capacity for the NCWD is about 100K Gallons of finished water per day. We are currently providing 40K gallons per day. If the North Carver Project went through, they would have needed 40K more that would have brought us too close to capacity. Mr. Mueller – When SWSS dials in the system, it will help. Ms. Stone – Due to the contamination, is there more frequent testing/monitoring of the system? Mr. Palimeri – No, there is a frequency of testing for different things. Right now, all the testing that has occurred since the plant came back up says that the water is okay. Ms. Stone – How many years will these new membranes last? Mr. Palimeri – We have added to our budget to accrue money for future big expenses. I would say another 7-8 years before we need to do it again but with our iron/manganese levels it may not go the 8 years. We will be prepared for the next time.

Ms. Stone – Is the plant staffed 24/7? Mr. Palimeri – No, it is monitored 24/7.

Middleboro bill -

Mr. Fennessey – Over the year that we needed to use Middleboro water, there is the question of what the value of the water. \$156K is what was figured. That money is not available right now but we are looking at ARPR funds. We can also put this off until Town Meeting. We could also enter into a payment plan with the Town of Middleboro. We had a meeting with them last week and they are very amiable to working this out with us. We are very thankful for them providing us with the water. Mr. Mueller – With ARPR, do we have to pay it back? Mr. Fennessey – No, we do not.

Mr. Palimeri – Do we have the money there to pay this bill if we have to wait until the next Town Meeting.
Ms. Moquin – It appears that way but I haven't done the final numbers. ARPR funds could be justified as we had to provide clean water. Mr. Palimeri – Should I be at the ARPR Meeting? Mr. Fennessey – You can; I will be there and will be presenting so it wouldn't be necessary. The meeting is on Wednesday at 3:00. Ms. Moquin and Mr. Fennessey left the meeting 5:54 PM.

Mr. Palimeri – We did have that meeting with Middleboro. It was a good meeting. We all had a gallon usage and came up with a .013 cents per gallon for 12 million gallons of water or \$156K.

Discussion:

- Public Document "NCWD Financial Analysis", by the Mass. Dept. of Revenue Division of Local Services/Technical Assistance Section, dated April 2014. (This document is available to view at [www. Mass.gov](http://www.Mass.gov)) –

Mr. Shannon – After I found this document, I wanted to make sure everyone knew about it. I wanted to know if the recommendations that were made were followed up on. They list 8 recommendations; some are not applicable anymore. Mr. Palimeri - It is hard to answer, we come up with a question and it causes more questions. The bottom line is that the NCWD cannot function without the people in this building. The Town is making a lot of decisions for the Water District.

Mr. Shannon – It would be helpful to know if there was follow up/decisions made on these recommendations. Mr. Mueller – I think we have made a lot of positive changes.

Minutes: June 1, 2023 and June 29, 2023:

*Motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2023, and June 29, 2023 as written: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Shannon*

Discussion:

Approved: Unanimous (3-0)

Correspondence:

Mr. Palimeri – I know the issues some people are having are real. I don't think it is a SWSS issue; there is only so much you can do with the existing plant. They facilitated the filters which was done by the designer of the plant. I think it is more the lack of pressure and the dead ends. Lakenham Drive was always an issue; Arrowhead is also an issue. It is unconscionable that our customer needs to look at installing filtration systems, especially when we are the highest cost water district.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Mueller – Keep me in the loop with Steve re: flushing. Mr. Palimeri – I want to be very cautious about doing that.
- Mr. Palimeri –
- Mr. Shannon -

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

Mr. Palimeri - There was a bill that was authorized to be paid. This was property insurance and liability. The Town of Carver, including the NCWD made a change in software. There was an issue with this bill flowing over. I made the choice to pay it so that we can save some money (about \$700)

Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting will be held on August 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment:

*Motion to adjourn was made at 6:24 PM: Mr. Mueller
Second: Mr. Shannon
Approved: Unanimous (3-0)*