

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Date: June 21, 2023
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present in-person were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Selectboard member Mary Brazie, Water Operator Nate Stalker, and Water Clerk Will Brinker. Others participating via zoom: Grant Administrator Peg McDonough

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 24 meeting were accepted with minor edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners voted unanimously t authorized Will Brinker to apply for technical assistance from the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a service line inventory and prepare a service line replacement plan. It is known that the water mains are not lead. There is a possibility that some of the older service lines may be lead.

Grant Administrator Peg McDonough reported on the Asset Management Plan Grant program that is available. The maximum grant award is \$150,000 The Commissioners agreed that an application for hydraulic modeling and possibly GIS mapping would be appropriate. The grant requires a 20% cash match and a 20% in kind match. ARPA funds may be able to be used for the 20% cash match as there are no other funds available. It was noted that contrary to Tighe & Bonds report that the Water Department does not have an Operations & Maintenance Manual, the Department does have one and it is kept current.

OLD BUSINESS:

A final review by Legal Counsel is needed on the Rules & Regulations.

The water main along Main Street is completely installed except for the culvert on the corner between Creamery Road and the Great Barrington town line. One hydrant has been moved and the others will be moved soon. The service line work will begin the end of the week. The water line replacement project will be complete by late July/early August and put into use.

There is some concern that there may be leaks in the old main along Main Street as unaccounted for water gallons is up considerably. If not resolved when the old water main is shut down, lead detection will need to be conducted.

Legal Counsel has not responded to the request to place a lien on the Ferguson property for the over \$6,000 in outstanding water usage charges. A water shut off notice is being posted today stating that if payment is not made water will be shut off on July 7. A water shut off notice will also be issued to the Egremont Village Inn/The Barn/The Keen's.

The Board approved a request to abate \$1,000 on the Harry Hughes account. Mr. Hughes is deceased. His family has been making the monthly payments and trying to pay the outstanding amount but are finding it financially difficult.

The Commissioners will consider a policy in regards to issuance of abatements and adjustments to water accounts.

There was some interest in the Water Trainee/Clerical position at the recent job fair held by MassHire, though no applicants.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Will Brinker announced that there has been a significant increase in the telephone charges for the cooper alarm lines. He is actively looking at some other means to obtain these services. Mary Brazie noted that the increase is town wide and was not known in time to budget for the increase.

The next meeting will be July 6 at 10am to follow up on the water shut off notices.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the meeting is posted on the town's web page. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.