



**TOWN OF BLANDFORD
WATER DEPARTMENT**

1 Russell Stage Rd
Blandford, MA 01008
413.848.4279 x 304

Water Commissioners

Brad Curry
Michael Keier
Peter Thayer

Water Superintendent

Gordon Avery

**MEETING MINUTES
BLANDFORD WATER COMMISSION
AUGUST 31, 2023
4:30 P.M.**

1. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting Opened at 4:20 P.M.

In Attendance: B. Curry, Chairman, M. Keier, Member, P. Thayer, Member, G. Avery, Water Superintendent, K. Shaw, Administrative Assistant.

Meeting is being recorded.

2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Review of Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2023.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 22, 2023, as written.

M. Keier Seconded.

All in Favor.

Karen brought to the Commission the Water Department FY 24 Quarter 1 Commitment for their signatures so a copy can be given to the Treasurer/Collector and one retained in the Water Department.

3. ACTION ITEMS:

a. No Action Items.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

a. Water Meter Project Update

The 42 new readers were received from EJP and installed. Twenty seven were replacements and 15 were new installations. After the equipment was changed out, a reading was performed August 23rd which was analyzed by Karen and Steve Grondin to determine consistencies or inconsistencies involved with the change. It appears that there was a gain of 28 accounts that were unread last reading and a loss of 8 that were previously being read. On some of the unread accounts Karen noted that the handheld

used to scan the meters was dropping a digit assigned to the readers either in the beginning of the sequence or at the end.

Brad advised he had a phone conversation with Jeremy (EJP sales rep) and advised problems have been ongoing and it is simply not acceptable. Against his wishes, the yearly bill for support was paid. Brad told him they are not performing as per their contract. Jeremy apologized and advised they are still having supply issues. He advised all the warranty meters should be coming in soon.

Gordon advised the Commission the TI Sales Rep stopped in about a month ago and dropped off information on the Neptune Meters. They are all brass units and basically the same meter and just about at the same pricing as EJP. Gordon's interest is that they supply a high/low meter with one head versus two separate meters doing high/low. It is important factor in the billing and for McDonalds usage as they will require high/low readings and Gordon was advised Neptune meters are compatible with the present system and equipment.

b. Water Department Trailer Registration

It was brought up that Adam Dolby, Acting Fire Chief, hasn't responded to the Water Department with information required for the registration of the trailer the department would like to register and use.

c. Chester Water Commission Email

Tabled until next meeting.

5. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Water Superintendent Update

Gordon advised the Commission a new weed whacker was purchased to replace an old one that was minimally functional. The new one is larger and has a brush head which is doing an excellent job.

All the GAC's have been washed. Failed THM's 104.

Planning on going out next week with Bernie to mark the bleeders.

Gordon expressed his dissatisfaction with Hach as they promised support and training on their equipment and haven't followed through. Gordon is considering pulling out to go elsewhere and would be requesting from them the amount paid to them be refunded.

Regarding finding the bleeders, Mike asked what it required to locate them. Gordon knows the location of several of them. He said a special tool is required to work on them.

Gordon discussed several possible SCADA upgrades that were discussed with Bernie. Bernie also is on board to train Steven which will be scheduled for several hours a few days a week.

Gordon discussed the shed which is sitting in water, and is too damp and needs to be lifted and placed on cinderblocks.

The overflow needs to be dug up and sealed.

If funds can be found it might be good to do the parking lot.

Steve will do some work on the dam.

b. Equipment Quotes

Copies of quotes (tractor) received were distributed to the Commissioners. Gordon advised the best tractor quote received was from New Boston Crane. He noted the Kubota's were extremely expensive. About \$10,000 more than most.

Two pieces of equipment in discussion are a trailer and a tractor. There is also discussion on purchasing a truck and possibly the trailer with grant money. Further discussion ensued about various pieces of equipment that would benefit the water plant.

Brad reviewed the procedure for getting bids on a truck which will be initiated prior to the next Commissioners' meeting so they can be reviewed at that time and a decision made.

In reference to the trailer, it is an open trailer to pull heavy equipment, not the enclosed trailer received from the Fire Department which is still in need of registration.

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion to get quotes for a pick up truck in order to make a decision.

M. Keier Seconded.

All in Favor.

Going forward with additional potential purchases will follow after the decision is made on the truck.

c. Blandford County Club Abatement

Abatement for the Blandford Country Club was approved by the Water Commission.

d. Office Scheduling During Karen's Absence

Karen's surgery has been rescheduled to April of 2024

e. Proposed New Water Abatement Form

The water abatement form needs to be revised and Karen will work on it and present it to the Commission when it is completed and ready for their review.

Election of Commissioners

MOTION: B. Curry made a motion for Mike Keier to become Chairman of the Water Commission.

P. Thayer Seconded.

All in Favor

Mike Keier accepted the Chairmanship.

MOTION: Mike Keier made a motion to ask Brad Curry as clerk.

Pete Thayer Seconded.

All in Favor

Brad Curry accepted the position of Clerk

MOTION: Pete Thayer made a motion to adjourn.

Mike Keier Seconded.

All in Favor

6. MEETING ADJOURNED


Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

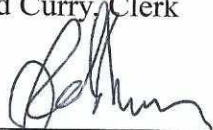
Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Shaw, Administrative Assistant
Water Department

WATER COMMISSION


Michael Keier, Chairman


Brad Curry, Clerk


Peter Thayer, Member