

Water Commissioner's Monthly Meeting
July 5, 2017

Bruce Merriam, Chairman
Ken Morin, Commissioner
Steve Call, Commissioner
Michael Brown, Water Superintendent
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
Dave Thompson, Finance Committee
Steve Constantine, Finance Committee
Allyson Greene-Chabot, Finance Committee

Ken Morin opened the meeting at 5:00pm. Bruce Merriam made the motion to accept the minutes of June 7, 2017. Steve Call seconded. All in Favor.

New Water Commissioner Chairman – Ken Morin stepped down as Chairman and Steve Call made a motion to nominate Bruce and he accepted. All in favor. Effective immediately, Bruce Merriam is the new Water Commissioner Chairman.

Office Updates—Termite extermination devices have been placed around the outside of the office. Mice elimination will be started soon. Bryan Hobbs finished insulating upstairs and electrician will be here tomorrow to start installing the new LED lighting.

Budget – Reviewed by commissioners. Bruce questioned Office Facility Maintenance. Mike explained it includes Exterminator's quotes and general materials and supplies. Mike will follow up and look at detailed report. Generally it is outside contracting, unforeseeable issues.

Hydrants – Hydrant flushing was completed last week. Five hydrants were chosen to be replaced this summer that are all 80+ years old. Bids have been sent out for the new hydrants.

General Pierce Bridge – Mike will be calling over to Greenfield to schedule a meeting that Kenny said he will attend also.

Forestry – Mike stopped by the site last week, work still continuing.

Finance Committee – Email had previously been sent to commissioners from the finance committee with some concerns. Regarding a water rate increase, Kenny explained that we don't increase on a regular basis more on an as need basis. Capital Improvement Plan has been started and over the last two years we have continued to apply for a grant from the state to help. Mike can share what we have and the finance committee can look over and let him know of any comments or suggestions. It was also suggested that there be more discussion regarding salary increases. Mike said licensed operators are not out there and it's important to bring our operators salary up to a competitive rate. Other departments have reached out to see if our guys would be willing to leave. Looking at neighboring towns with same population, our operators are earning less.

Turners Falls High School – Dave mentioned that their underground sprinkler does not have a shut off to the different fields and they have a leak somewhere but no one knows where. He wondered if that's something that the water department could help them with. Mike stated that it is soft ground and plastic pipe so it's difficult for us to hear...they need to find blueprint and put in a shut off.

Bridge of Names – Kenny met with Walter Ramsey regarding money for bridge of names. Walter has upcoming meeting with Steve Ellis and will discuss further.

Next meeting scheduled for *Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 4:00pm.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.