

Minutes of the Mendon Water Commission by Allan Kent
24 August 2016 7:00 pm at the town hall

Approved: __1/12/2017__

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present : Allan Kent, chair; Kevin Rudden, member; Dean D'Alessandro, member; Tim Watson, water operator; Timothy K. Rowe, customer.

It was agreed that the water usage billed to Mr. Rowe at 5 Parker Road was certainly in error. After much discussion, it was agreed by those present and the Water Commission passed unanimously, that

1. Mr. Rowe would pay only the capacity impact amount on his water bill dated 8/1/2016 of \$48.32 at this time.
2. Mr. Rowe would not have to pay, at this time, the 1300 cu ft of water billed on this bill (\$117).
3. That Tim Watson would have the meter changed and the new meter read as soon as practical.
4. That the new meter would be read when installed and again at the end of the calendar quarter (along with all of the other customer meters), and the prior usage since Mr. Rowe took over the property would be extrapolated back at the same usage rate and paid for.
5. That Leah Cameron would notify the treasurer's office and otherwise adjust accounts so that no late fees would be charged on the water bill which is due on or before 31 August 2016.

Items discussed that were not anticipated prior to the meeting:

Kevin suggested and it was agreed that adding shut off valves to various segments of the Cape Road area water system would be put into the draft 5-year plan. (These valves would, in some cases, allow shutting off a part of the system for repair or extension while not impacting the rest of the system.) Tim will estimate the cost of providing and installing these valves. Kevin thought he would be finished with his review of the plan within a day or two. It should be able to be considered at our next meeting (not yet scheduled) and then submitted to the board of selectmen for their review and approval of the plan.

It was agreed that we should investigate the cost of software needed and procedure changes needed to eliminate rekeying and other manual operations involved in rendering water bills to customers. If purchasing the software is practical, we should put the cost into the water department budget and purchase the software, installation, training and support as soon as practical.

Tim Watson reported that new meters and meter upgrade kits had recently arrived and he would begin to install them.

It was agreed that we should investigate the possibility of transferring the operation (and assets?) of the water system to one or more other entities as the cost (in aggravation and otherwise) of running a system of only 152 customers (in two independent segments) and 30 fire hydrants (in three independent segments) is somewhat excessive. (Allan – added later – most of the Public Water Systems (PWSs, approx 27) in town do not conform to the state requirements for well security and separation and may, in the future, be required to conform; this would encourage the expansion of the Mendon Water System to serve these PWSs . Likewise, a contamination of wells in an area of town could require an extension of or creation of a public water system as has already happened on Milford St (northeast end of Rt 16). See the forthcoming 5-year plan.)

Kevin has studied the possibility of placing the Mendon Water System into an Enterprise Fund and provided a thick report (including a 41 page state document Informational Guideline) for the members to read and comment on. His recommendation is that it may be too much trouble. The possibility should probably be added to the five year plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm