

Minutes of the Mendon Water Commission Meeting of 30 November 2016

by Allan Kent

Approved: __1/12/2017__

In attendance: Allan Kent, Dean D'Alessandro, Kevin Rudden (commissioners); Tim Watson (operator) for part of meeting.

All actions were agreed to unanimously unless otherwise noted (none).

Meeting started at 7:00 pm and adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.

- A new clerk for the Mendon water commission has not yet been appointed by the Board Of Selectmen. It is hoped that one will be appointed soon.
- The apparent low billing for 3 Joseph Rd (10 Sep 16 reading – from summary - for 1 Nov 16 bill) was discussed. The current quarter's usage was 300 cu.ft.; the prior quarter's usage was 2800 cu.ft. which is similar to previous quarters' usage. It could have been a digit transposition in the Past Read meter reading; it could have been an adjustment in the data to account for past billing software issues; it could have been something else. There appears to be no way to tell. The \$ amount for the possible water usage is about \$200. It was agreed to make no changes in billing unless a new clerk finds an explanation for the discrepancy that warrants a revised bill.
- The total water purchased for the Cape Rd area subsystem in Q3CY16 was 362,700 cu.ft. whereas the total water billed to customers in the same area for Q3CY16 was 275,070 yielding a "missing" amount of 87,630 cu.ft (or about 4.21 gal/minute). This is about 21% missing water (Goal maximum for the Mass authorities for large systems (which we are not) is 10%). This represents only a small excess of billed \$ over purchased \$ of \$1,260.15 (for slightly differing periods). It was agreed that the best strategy is to replace meters (and readouts) as planned as soon as possible (which will probably increase the total water billed due to older meters reading low due to crud build up, etc.). If that does not reduce the "lost" water, we will consider another round of leak-finding in the spring, although finding multiple small leaks is problematic.
- It was agreed that a separate letter to customers regarding access to their premises for replacement or upgrading of meters should be sent as soon as clerk effort is available. (Instead of including the letter in the next bill.) The cost will be approximately \$70 in postage and \$30 to \$80 in envelopes, labels, and labor.
- It was mentioned that a special reading of the 2 Dudley Rd meter after a customer complaint and comparing usage over 6 prior quarters did not support the complaint of excess water billing. Allan will call or send a letter to the resident

(who is not the responsible person on the billing list) suggesting possible explanations

- The board approved the 3rd draft of the “5 year plan” for the Mendon Water Commission with the corrections that were marked into the review draft. Allan will remove that change bars and yellow highlighting and file the document in the Water Commission records and forward the approved document to the Board of Selectman for their information and possible comment. It appears that the review item from the state’s review of last year only requires that the plan exist, not that the plan be submitted to the state.
- It is alleged that the Board Of Selectmen told Dick Skinner and/or Tim Watson that the bolts for the top of the fire hydrant in front of 2 Cape Rd had to be replaced by a licensed and/or certified “fire hydrant technician”. (Tim Watson had already left before this discussion.) Allan will attempt to track down this allegation and attempt to get the work done as previously authorized by the Board of Water Commissioners. The same issue presumably exists with regard to raising the fire hydrant (eastern-most) on Whiten St (for which I believe we have received the extender pipe).

[end]