

**TOWN OF BROOKFIELD**  
**Water Department**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 10, 2022**

*Posted Meeting: The meeting of the Brookfield Water Department was called to order at 11:01 a.m. in the banquet room of the Brookfield Town Hall.*

*In Attendance: Don Taft, Robert Barnes and Al Jones*

*Guest: Michael Seery*

*Superintendent: Dennis Clarke*

*Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant; Holly Chisholm*

**Minutes**

*Commissioners reviewed and accepted the minutes of July 20, 2022, as amended. Al made a motion to amend the second page of minutes from the abbreviation of 2ndary to be written out as secondary. Mr. Barnes seconded; so voted.*

**Commitment**

*Commissioners signed the 1st commitment for fy23.*

*Bulk Water for \$5,464.30*

**Superintendent Report**

*Dennis stated that he uncovered a second feed going into the elementary school that he was not aware of. Dennis also stated that this second feed to the Elementary School is the fire suppression feed. The Water Department has no records of this feed.*

**Level 3 Drought**

*With the drought determination of a level 3 status being extremely critical, the Commissioners have agreed to take a drastic measure in discontinuing all water haulers. Mr. Taft asked if Dennis thought a robocall to all water users would benefit but Dennis stated that he does not feel that this is necessary at this time. He doesn't feel that there is a lot of nonessential usage taking place due to water users being aware of the drought and taking measures. Kelly will help with the drought notice on Brookfield Website.*

**Generator**

*Dennis discussed the failure of the generator at the pump station. He received a quote of \$4,00.00 and another quote of \$800.00. Bigelow came out and fixed it immediately, but it will need to be replaced within the next few years.*

### **Water Rate Options**

*Dennis handed out a spreadsheet for multiple options on the new water rates. Commissioners will discuss and vote on the new rates at the next meeting so that Dennis may mail out notifications along with the bills next month. The new rates will not be implemented until the spring of 2023.*

### **Guest Discussion**

*Mr. Seery met with the Commissioners to discuss his concerns regarding the new rate increase. Commissioners explained to Mr. Seery that the loss of the bulk water revenue will make an impact of the funds much needed to run the department. They also stated that we will need to replace a failing well in the possible near future along with a new treatment plant that will be mandated by the state. The Water Department must start raising the rates to be able to comply with all state regulations and mandates.*

*Commissioners asked Mr. Seery to look over the options for his recommendation. Mr. Seery thought that option 2 would be more adaptable.*

*Al made a motion to approve option 2 to move forward with the increase of rates in the spring of 2023. New rates to be determined at the next meeting. Mr. Taft seconded; so voted. All in favor.*

### **Electronic Payment**

*The Water Department will be accepting electronic payments starting in the Fall of 2022.*

### **East Brookfield BOS**

*Mr. Taft stated that the East Brookfield BOS have recognized the amount of work Dennis has done in supporting the town when needed and have agreed to continue with the mutual support between the two towns.*

### **Secondary Operator**

*Commissioners discussed the hiring of a new secondary operator. Al made a motion to hire Mike Olson, Mr. Barnes seconded; so voted. All in favor.*

### **Regional Water Meeting**

*The Regional Water Department meeting will take place at the pavilion down at Lewis Field on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 11.00. Mr. Taft will send out notices.*

### **Adjourn**

*Commissioners have agreed to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m. Holly will post the next meeting for September 14, 2022.*

