

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
Water Department
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 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

Guest: Dave Holdcraft

Superintendent: Dennis Clarke

Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant; Holly Chisholm

Minutes

Commissioners reviewed and accepted the minutes of September 14, 2022 written by Al Jones and the minutes of August 10, 2022 as amended under the Superintendent report. Al made a motion to amend the Superintendent report stating that the second feed to the Elementary School is the fire suppression feed. Mr. Taft seconded; so voted.

Commitment

Commissioners signed the 2nd commitment for fy23 in the sum of \$67,624.42.

Well 02G

Mr. Holdcraft asked why the water department has discontinued the bulk water haulers and why the necessity to increase the rates. Dennis stated that due to well02G being in failure, it is necessary to try and prolong the use of the well. If we were to continue servicing the bulk water haulers, the well would fail sooner than later. The rate increase will make up the difference from the reduction in fees lost and other mandatory increased expenses in the water department budget. Dennis discussed with Mr. Holdcraft the history of the well from 1974 until present and stated that it has been in failure since day one. Dennis also went over the spreadsheet for increase options and discussed the why commissioners voted on option two.

Mr. Barnes asked previously about the wells down on Kimball St. for Bulk Water Haulers but Dennis stated that they have been filled in and no longer usable.

New Services

The water department has two new services.

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 14th 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.

