



TOWN OF LINCOLN

WATER DEPARTMENT

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WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 9, 2016

4:30 PM

Pumping Station – 77 Sandy Pond Road

Attendees: Packy Lawler, Chair
Ruth Ann Hendrickson, Water Commissioner
Bob Antia, Water Commissioner
Gregory Woods, Water Superintendent
Matt Mitchell, resident
Susan Clem, resident
Christine Andrews, Next Step Living representative

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting, as amended.

The Board reviewed the Action Item List and made a number of updates and revisions to the document.

Commissioner Antia stated that he had consulted with the Town's IT Manager, Chuck Miller, and is now in the process of developing a cybersecurity implementation strategy for the Department. Commissioner Antia anticipated that he would have a short presentation ready for the April meeting.

Next, the Board recognized Mr. Matt Mitchell of 121 Old Concord Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that he was attending the meeting to determine what the Department would be doing to address the elevated pH readings that have been recorded in the water main that serves his house. Mr. Woods stated that he had contracted an engineering firm to investigate the likely causes of the elevated pH, as well as potential remedies. Mr. Woods stated that most water quality issues in the distribution system are related to the age of the water. Mr. Woods said stating that the 878 foot long, 8-inch water main only serves three houses on Old Concord Road (#207, #121, and #109), one of which is vacant, and that it would take roughly 12 days for the water to travel the length of the main. Mr. Mitchell stated that he had children at the residence and was concerned about the possible health effects of the elevated pH water and/or any pipe materials that may be leaching as a result of the water quality. Commissioner Hendrickson suggested that Mr. Woods contact the consultant and have them modify the scope of work to include a section on potential health effect of the water. Commissioner Lawler requested that Mr. Woods have the work completed for the next meeting and he told Mr. Mitchell that he is welcome to attend.

The Commissioners then requested Sue Klem of Trapelo Road, and Christine Andrews of Next Step Living give a brief overview of the Lincoln Energy Challenge. Ms. Andrews said that the purpose of the program was to reduce Lincoln's energy consumption through conservation and home audits, with a goal of conducting 300 audits in one year. Ms. Klem stated that the Committee is seeking support from the Selectmen and other departments for the project. Ms. Klem stated that there is a water conservation component to the program, including faucet aerators and low flow showerheads. Ms. Klem inquired whether the Water Commissioners would be willing to include a Lincoln Energy Challenge flier with a future water bill. Mr. Woods stated that the water meters would be read at the end of March and the bills would likely be going out mid-April if that gave the Committee enough time to finalize their bill stuffer. Ms. Klem stated that they have not met with the Selectman yet so it would be a good idea to wait until the July meter reading to include the bill stuffer. The Water Commissioners voted unanimously to support the initiative and agreed to allow a flier to be included in the summer billing cycle.

Mr. Woods continued the conversation regarding bill stuffers stating that the Department needed to include a bill stuffer for backflow prevention / cross-connection control in order to satisfy the MaDEP's Backflow Prevention program outreach requirements. Mr. Woods provided several different bill stuffers created by the American Water Works Association. The Board reviewed the bill stuffer descriptions and voted unanimously to approve the flier that was oriented toward the entire family.

The Commissioners then reviewed a draft copy of the Consumer Confidence Report. The Commissioners made several corrections and asked Mr. Woods to clarify several statements, including the reported residential gallons per capita day (rgpcd) and whether the coliform bacteria exceedance at the well triggered the reporting requirement. Mr. Woods stated that he recently finished the MaDEP's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) and the calculation for rgpcd was higher than the number he calculated earlier in the year. Commissioner Lawler requested that Mr. Woods utilize the ASR method of calculation prior to the submission of the Town Report so that the rgpcd numbers coincide. The Commissioners voted to hold an interim meeting to review and approve the final corrections once Mr. Woods updates the document. The Commissioners agreed to meet on the March 30th to approve the document.

Mr. Woods then provided an update on his research into developing an agriculture irrigation policy. Mr. Woods stated that he had found that several communities in Massachusetts made reference to an agricultural water rate. Topsfield stated in a 2007 Water Conservation Plan that they would consider developing water strategies for agricultural operations in order to meet both the Town's requirements and the farmer's needs. According to Mr. Woods, verbal correspondence with a Topsfield Water Commissioner revealed that no agricultural irrigation requests had come before their Board since that time. Mr. Woods stated that Holliston had an agricultural rate that was capped at their Tier 2 rate. In 2012, the Town of East Longmeadow approved the creation of an Agricultural & Horticultural Water Rate that is 75% of the residential rate for those uses that satisfy the requirements of G.L.c.61A. Mr. Woods said that Hatfield also has an agricultural rate but that he had not heard back from their superintendent regarding how the policy was implemented. The Commissioners discussed the topic and agreed that the policy should limit irrigation to drip irrigation and there should be some stipulation on either the amount of water used or the size of the area to be irrigated. Commissioner Hendrickson suggested that the Board plan on having a draft

policy in place by the June meeting and requested that Mr. Woods place this item on each agenda for the coming months. Mr. Woods stated that he would expand his search for existing agricultural policies to include the surrounds states.

Mr. Woods informed the Board that he had been in contact with Concord's Town Clerk regarding the ownership status of the property that contains the dam. Mr. Woods stated that the clerk did not have any documentation stating that Concord owned that parcel or the other parcels of land that extend from the northern shore of Sandy Pond toward the town boundary. Mr. Woods recommended that the Department request that Town Council draft an opinion letter to Concord's Town Manager explaining the current situation and inquiring whether Concord agrees that the Acts of 1966, Chapter 35, Section 5 releases all land owned by Concord related to water withdrawal be returned to Lincoln. The Commissioners unanimously agreed and asked Mr. Woods to start that process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next meeting of the Water Commissioners is scheduled for April 13, 2016 at 4:30 PM at the Pumping Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Woods
Superintendent