

Town of Milford – Board of Water Commissioners Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2023

Meeting Called to Order – 3:15 PM.

In attendance were: Chairman Jonathan Bruce, member Jamie Luchini, and member Philip Ciaramicoli. Also in attendance was Water Department General Manager David Condrey and Consultant Gerald M. Moody, Esq.

Agenda Items

A. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of November 9, 2023 were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

B. **Receivables Commitment** – The Board reviewed the General Managers submission as to the November water billings, those billings being in the amount of \$690,137.96. The members indicated their approval of the committed amounts.

C. **Approval of Expenditures and Budget Discussion** – The following payroll and bills payable warrants were reviewed:

Payroll:

24 – 21	\$20,230.65
24 – 22	\$24,580.02
24 – 23	\$21,896.24
24 – 24	\$22,652.57

A motion was made by Mr. Luchini, seconded by Mr. Ciaramicoli to approve as indicated above and it was unanimously so voted.

Bills payable:

24 – 21	\$207,803.28
24 – 22	\$32,900.85

24 – 23	\$29,092.08
24 – 24	\$48,266.41

After discussion it was moved by Mr. Luchini, seconded by Mr. Ciaramicoli and unanimously voted to approve the bills payable as set forth above.

D. Update on Discussion with Highway Surveyor on Department Responsibility as to Work on Roadways – The General Manager did not have any further update to present in relation to this matter. The Manager will keep the Commissioners informed of any discussions that take place with the Highway Surveyor.

E. On Call Service Contract Issues – The Contract awarded to R.H. White Construction, after bidding was discussed and was executed by the Commissioners. It was agreed among the Commissioners that at the time of the next contract there will be a careful review to see whether or not the work should be divided in some fashion.

F. Water Department Manager on Any Operational Issues – Manager gave the Commissioners the background on the recent situation where the power went off to the Water Department facility. The treatment plant was not affected by this outage but because of lack and heat and access the Manager did let affected employees go home. The matter was resolved with National Grid and the duration was limited to several hours without any serious disruption of the Water Department business.

The Manager discussed the effect of the recent heavy rains on water supply and the Echo Lake is up to considerable degree in terms of its capacity. The level is up in excess of 10 inches and is close to over topping with more rain expecting.

The Godfrey Brook wellfield is now operating although not at the capacities which had been hoped. It is anticipated that the pumping level will increase when certain adjustments are made and over time.

The staff continued to operate and attempt to resolve any issues or repairs as needed. The Manager has met with R.H. White to discuss the questions of them finishing the contract and completing “punch items” in working to resolve financial issues.

The system is required to measure PFAS on a monthly basis and submit samples and the November numbers are higher than had been expected and close to the DEP limit. If we go above the 20 limitation, we would have to install necessary treatment. It is hoped that the grant would be of assistance and it is possible that there may need to be an article in the warrant for the annual town meeting.

As to the Dilla Street Wells project, the contract has been signed and the Department has received Mass DEP approval to start construction. Tata & Howard will be issuing final authorization to proceed to the contractor in the near future.

The General Manager recommended a final resolution of the issue of the charges for the blown motor on the Case Skid steer. Monroe Tractor, after discussions with the Manager, has submitted a revised invoice reducing the labor cost by \$9,614.05. The new total cost would be \$29,836.36 which is down from the previous \$37,836.35. The General Manager recommended settling on this basis and the Board voted unanimously to approve that resolution.

G. Limits on Work on Water Lines – After discussion of issues that have risen from Department employees working on water lines onto areas that are owned by customers, the Board determined that the best resolution is to have the Manager address these issues on a case by case basis as to whether or not the department performing such work would be reasonable. The Manager will also have a list of contractors available to give to affected customers and customers will be charged appropriately if the Water Department opts to not work on private property and private water lines. The Commissioners concurred in this resolution.

H. **Capital Projects** – The Board concluded that they had discussed all the relevant capital projects in the course of discussion of the Water Department Managers report. Information as to capital projects is further detailed in the Managers report of December 14, 2023.

I. **Old Business** – None of the Commissioners had any old business to discuss.

J. **Executive Session to Consider Employment Contracts of Department Personnel and Value of Real Estate** – At about 3:40 p.m. the Chairman announced that the Commissioners would be going into executive session to consider employment contracts of departmental personnel and also the value of real estate.


The Chairman announced that the Commissioners would not be returning to open session. A vote was taken on a roll call vote and it was unanimously voted to enter executive session.

Submitted by:



Gerald M. Moody, Esq.

APPROVED:



Jonathan M. Bruce,
Chairman