

North Haverhill Water & Light District

Minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting.

- * The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM at the North Haverhill United Methodist Church.

- * Those present: Dennis Fournier, Cheryl Marchetti, Rich Clifford, David Lackie, John Page, Luanne Fournier, Carol Norcross, Bob Fagnant and Sarah Tucker.

- * Others: Deb Bigelow and Shawn Bigelow.

- * Rich made a motion to approve the night's agenda, which Dennis seconded and both approved.

- * Reviewed minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting. Rich made a motion to accept the minutes, which Dennis seconded, and the commissioners approved.

- * The commissioners reviewed and signed the monthly manifest.

- * Dennis stated that, effective immediately, Cheryl Marchetti is resigning as commissioner. Rich made a motion to appoint David Lackie to finish her term, which expires in 2024. Dennis seconded the motion and the commissioners approved it. Clerk John Page administered the oath of office.

- * Sarah told the commissioners that they need to take a good look at water rates and consider raising them. Another area of concern is the rates charged for water customers with larger line sizes. Rich mentioned that the group had previously discussed raising water rates for usage but not base fees. The water regulations, in some cases, are very ambiguous and need to be rewritten so they are clear. Sarah asked the commissioners to look at Haverhill Corner's water regulations and they might pick up some ideas on how to change ours. A good example is that they have a rule that water customers are still responsible to pay their water bills even if they did not receive them for some reason. Water customers know that we have a base rate for quarterly water usage and should know that they are responsible for paying it. If we had had a rule like this, we wouldn't be in the situation that we are with the Hastings' account.
Sarah said she has had several questions from customers about being able to pay water bills online. She thinks we have enough customers to make that work. It would save us money because we wouldn't be paying Sarah to process checks and be making trips to the bank to make deposits. The commissioners can discuss this more later.
Another topic of conversation was the amount of water that Mountain Milk is taking out of the water district to fill peoples' pools. They fill their tank truck at the middle school and meter the amount they take. At their convenience, they send a donation to

the water district. They get water at minimal cost and make a huge profit on it. Sarah said, to date, she has not received any accounting from them on the amount of water they took or any payment. She has tried to contact them twice with no luck. The amount of water they take is putting a great deal of wear and tear on our water system. This verbal agreement with them has to be modified and put into writing. Dennis made a motion to have Dave Lackie contact them to see how they respond. Dennis seconded the motion and the commissioners approved it.

* The MS-535 was signed and all required documents are off to DRA. Plodzik & Sanderson will be starting the audits in April. All of the past years' records have been reconstructed.

* We will start on the 2022 warrant articles in January.

* Sarah told the commissioners that she is not taking any actions right now to collect overdue water accounts. She thought it best to 'let the waters calm' a bit and will look at that issue next summer.

* The former Jim Horne store has a lien on it from when he owned it. The property was taken by the town for taxes and auctioned off a few years ago. Mr. Berwick, the new owner, is selling the property and needs the liens removed. Dennis made a motion to remove the liens from the property. Rich seconded the motion and the commissioners approved it.

* Concerning the Hastings' suit against us, Primex has assigned a lawyer to the case. He petitioned the court to remove the suit from small claims court and reassign it to superior court for a jury trial. We are now waiting for more updates from the lawyer. After a brief discussion, Dennis made a motion to put a lien on the Hastings' property. After more discussion, he withdrew his motion. Deb Bigelow, who works for attorney Kevin Bruno, advised the commissioners to check with their lawyer first.

* Bob mentioned the customer who came to the September meeting asking for water at his Brushwood Road property. He needs a meter pit for his meter. Our water rules are not clear who would have to pay for the meter pit. Bob's point was that the water regulations need a thorough review and updating.

* Shawn Bigelow came to the meeting because he needs a duplicate title for one of his fire trucks. The commissioners signed the paperwork to make that happen.

* Dave Lackie asked why the meeting time was changed to 5 PM instead of 7 PM like it used to be. No one could recall for certain. After a very short discussion, Dennis made a motion to change the meeting time to 7 PM. Rich seconded the motion and the commissioners approved it.

* Luanne Fournier is resigning as Treasurer but has agreed to stay on as Deputy Treasurer. Carol Norcross was appointed by the commissioners as Treasurer. Rich made a motion to approve these changes, which Dennis seconded and the commissioners approved.

* Water Department: Bob Fagnant.

** Bob reported that we are using a lot of water – over 100,000 gallons a day when it should be around 70,000. There may be a leak at the trailer park in Center Haverhill.

* Other:

** John reminded the commissioners that this is his last meeting as Clerk.

There was no further discussion and Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. Dennis seconded the motion and the commissioners approved it. The next meeting will be on January 18, 2022, 7:00 PM at the church.

Respectfully submitted,

John. E. Page, Clerk