

**CITY OF BROCKTON  
WATER COMMISSION  
Minutes  
October 20, 2014**

**Present:** Ossie Jordan, Chairman/Commissioner  
Kate Archard, Commissioner  
Bernie Hassan, Commissioner  
Jim Bragg, Commissioner  
Brian Creedon, Water Systems Manager  
Larry Rowley, Interim DPW Commissioner

**Absent:** Dan Murphy, Commissioner

**Attending:** George Polillio

Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M; noting that in the future if a flag is available the pledge of allegiance would be done. Also noted that Mr. Murphy is unable to be in attendance however is available by phone if necessary.

Mr. Jordan called for a report of the **Interim DPW Commissioner. Mr. Rowley reported** on the water mains stating that 400' of 2" main on Poole Street from Churchill to Grant is being replaced and a hydrant is being installed. Mr. Rowley reported on staffing stating that the Mayor has allowed two vacant funded positions to be filled, these are being filled with two individuals, one from Highway and one from Sewer, both of these individuals were previously laid off from the Water Division, there are also two other positions that can be filled as their comp cases have been settled. Utility bills are going out at the beginning of November and we are working on the estimates. Mr. Jordan questioned when street openings will be closing down for the winter. Mr. Rowley stated that usually the permits have to be applied for by November 15<sup>th</sup> and work must be completed by the day after Thanksgiving, depending on weather, however the city can do work beyond this date. Mr. Jordan questioned meters. Ms Hambly stated that there were 150 estimates out of 22,743 active accounts on the August billing; Mr. Rowley stated that we are chasing down the estimates so there aren't more than 2 on an account. Mr. Rowley also stated that we will be going out to bid on a system that will allow customers to access their account information online. Ms Archard questioned why this is being put out to bid and not just being adding to our existing system. Ms Hambly stated that this has to go out to bid as there are other companies that can integrate into the Sensus flexnet system. Mr. Rowley also stated that he is starting a program to test large meters (2" and above).

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for **Water Connections** and called for discussion of the water application for **583 Warren Avenue**.

**Mr. Hassan moved to approve the connection for 583 Warren Avenue; Mr. Bragg seconded the motion and so voted unanimously by the Commission, motion approved.**

M. Jordan informed the Commission that the commissioners cannot as individuals invite people to a meeting, all requests for invitations, commitments, information, etc. must go through the Chair or Mr. Creedon (as clerk); so not to create any liabilities. If any information is needed from DPW Staff this must be directed to the Interim Commissioner. Ms Archard stated that under the freedom

of information act we can request information. Mr. Rowley wanted to clarify if it was okay for a commissioner to come in and speak with him. Mr. Jordan stated that this was fine, but commissioners cannot ask for information from staff or other departments, protocol needs to be followed as department heads have requested that any questions be submitted to the Chair. Ms Archard stated that she asked the City Solicitor some questions and was told to go through the chair, which she did; questioned if we had any answers. Mr. Jordan stated that there has been no response yet, but we do not want to disrupt any negotiations. Mr. Bragg questioned addressing the media. M. Jordan stated that the media knows the correct procedure, we are a liability to the city if we say the wrong thing...the open meeting law was discussed.

Mr. Archard questioned if the **irrigation** issue was going to be heard again. Mr. Creedon stated that it will be heard in November and that he is putting the information together regarding condos, most condos would not have a need for an outside irrigation. The question is whether the irrigation rule would hurt the sewer budget and what the cost would be to install. Mr. Rowley stated that we need to find out who has irrigation systems and who is on city water or on well water. Mr. Creedon stated that he will have a package for the commission prior to the next meeting.

Ms Archard questioned that status of **Torrey Street**. Mr. Rowley stated that another violation notice was in the paper and an insert will be in the next bill, the pipe needs to be replaced, the issue is still being investigated, mixers are in the tanks and we are looking at flow models and may do a reverse flushing, there may be a gate that is either on or off that may be an issue. We are doing the little things that are being requested and according to the consent order we have two years to resolve. Mr. Jordan stated we need to do upkeep and if we don't we are going to have problems. Mr. Rowley stated we may have been moved up from a Tier 4 to a Tier 1 or 2 for the PEF on Torrey Street, Tina Ave and Norwich Road; however we need to have enough money to pay off the loan.

Mr. Jordan requested a report from the **Water Systems Manager**. **Mr. Creedon reported** on the flows and stated that we are in a drought and that Silver Lake is down 5 inches this month alone; the running average is 10.2MGD and the flows are coming down, Silver Lake is -50" and rainfall is down for the year. Mr. Creedon also stated that the Town of Halifax's Monponsett working group would like to be invited to a meeting to provide an update about the status of Monponsett Pond and the various projects(a copy of the letter for Monponsett is included in the meeting information).

It was questioned if we could meet at Silver Lake for the next meeting in order to look at the gates and dams. Ms Archard stated that Cathy Drinan is not happy with the way Brockton is managing the system, also stated that there is still no representation from Brockton on the Central Plymouth County Advisory Board and there are people interested. Mr. Rowley stated that the Mayor is working on this.

Mr. Creedon continued his report stating that we are 100% compliant on the lead and copper testing and will remain on a reduced testing schedule (every three years) and that all the houses that were tested were built before 1980.

Mr. Jordan requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Ms Hambly noted that the September 18<sup>th</sup> minutes were not included in the information as they were provided at the last meeting.

**Mr. Hassan move to approve the September 23, 2014 minutes, this motion was seconded by Mr. Bragg, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.**

Mr. Jordan stated that he would like to have a separate meeting to deal with a strategic plan and other issues. Mr. Creedon stated that there is a group interested in meeting with the Commission to discuss adding fluoride to the water. The Commission discussed this and agreed that this needs to be brought to public health. Mr. Rowley stated that this was rejected approximately six years ago. Ms Archard stated that there would be a cost to do this and that not all residents need it.

Mr. Jordan stated that he would like to start researching and discussing the water rates early. Mr. Creedon stated that he could do an analysis of whatever rate is recommended compared to usage. Mr. Jordan stated that we need to look at the budget with the rates and work with the Mayor and the Finance Office; also stated that vehicles are an issue as some need to be replaced rather than being repaired. Mr. Rowley stated that 5 vehicles had to be junked as they were unsafe and unable to pass inspection.

The Commission decided that the next meeting would be on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Silver Lake and requested that Mr. Creedon contact Mike Sessine to arrange this.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of having a meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> and having another meeting on December 16 or 17 to discuss Aquaria.

**Ms Archard moved to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 11:41 A.M.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

Alisa Hambly,  
Head Administrative Clerk,  
Water Division

**Certified by:**

Brian M. Creedon  
Water Systems Manager  
Clerk of the Commission