

**CITY OF BROCKTON
WATER COMMISSION
Minutes
December 8, 2014**

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

Attending: Brad Cartwright
George Haikal
Patrick Quinn
Paul Collis, Halifax
Don Barrows, Halifax
Donald Howard, Hanson Selectman
Pine duBois, JRWA
Kim Roy, Halifax Selectman
Valerie Massard, Mass Audubon
Andrea Papadopoulos
Charles Seelig
Cathleen Drinan
Brad Chase Mass DMF

Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M; requesting a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014.

Ms Archard moved to approve the October 20, 2014 minutes, this motion was seconded by Mr. Bragg and so voted by the Commission, with 4 in the affirmative and one abstaining, motion passed.

Mr. Jordan requested a report from the **Water Systems Manager**. **Mr. Creedon reported** on the flows, stating that diversion of Monponsett stopped on December 2nd because of a public health advisory, however we are diverting Furnace Pond. Also noted that usage is in the low 10s, however when the VA is working usage is higher. Ms Archard questioned why we took 2 MGD at the beginning of December. Mr. Creedon stated that there was a leak which was going into the river at the Court Street bridge. Ms Archard questioned how the leak was found and whether the new system found it. Mr. Creedon stated that it was found by site and not by the new system. Ms Hambly stated the new system only shows information on meters installed in properties and that the levels of the twin storage tanks was going down and the pressure was going down, we were also getting dirty water calls in the Court Street area.

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for **Water Connections** and called for discussion of the water application for **288 Linwood Street**.

Mr. Bragg moved to approve the connections for 288 Linwood Street; Mr. Hassan seconded the motion and so voted unanimously by the Commission, motion approved.

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for discussion with the Town of Halifax et al –the Monponsett Working Group. Mr. Creedon stated that Brockton has 2 open positions on the Central Plymouth County Water District, 1 must be a resident, the board meets monthly and one issue is the public health advisory on Monponsett, the board has asked us to stop diverting, which we have done, we did divert for just over a week.

Mr. Creedon noted some of the issues of the Town of Halifax and the Monponsett Working Group:

1. Expenses – looking for shared help on grants, etc.
2. Why we didn't impose a water ban considering the drought this summer
 - a. The City is using Aquaria and there is no need for a water ban or a drought advisory, Silver Lake did not go below 30" until the end of August
3. Shortening of diversion season from May 31st to April 1st.

Mr. Seelig stated that according to the 1964 legislation Brockton has a responsibility to maintain Monponsett Pond; Halifax has an interest in boating, recreation, swimmers and fishing, however we are dealing with cyano bacteria in the pond, algae counts have gone up and there are also invasive weeds in the pond, there are also endangered species and the EPA is doing a study of the flows, they have a SWMI grant and are currently going for a second to do a study on putting more controls at the Monponsett Dam, not looking to install controls but study only. Brockton has been helpful and the legislation does hold Brockton responsible, however they are looking for more support with grants, there was a grant awarded a few years ago, however it was never followed up on. One way to reduce stress is to impose a ban and conservation measures and they hope that Brockton will be more active in setting goals to reduce the flow. Mr. Jordan questioned the use of the ponds and boating and questioned if boats are motorized; the problem with boats is that any kind of foreign matter can be brought into the pond. Mr. Seelig stated that Brockton has been very active in attending meetings and we are working with the state and other agencies to improve quality, believe that Brockton is installing aerators in Silver Lake; this has not been done in Monponsett. Mr. Jordan questioned if anyone has looked at the active bogs. Mr. Seelig noted that the summer cottages have been turned into year round homes and septic systems have been upgraded. Ms Roy stated that the ponds are sick, Monponsett was #1 in advisories this year and the ponds are a major resource to the Town of Halifax, unable to use this past summer as they were green, this has been a burden to the tax payers of Halifax and they cannot keep doing this on their own. Mr. Barrows stated that there is a small piece of property called Woodbine Avenue which had to have new systems installed, there must be a 100' between a well and a septic system, and the town cannot put water in on a private street, it is not fair to put a betterment on the residents to cover a loan for doing this as the cause was the rising water in west lake; \$187,000 must be paid back over 20 years. Mr. Collis stated that Brockton and the Commission need to look at these issues as this is Brockton's water system and it not only effects the 100,000 people that receive water, but also effects 3 watersheds, would like Brockton to take a regional approach, every community has water restrictions, except for Brockton, which needs to be looked at, would like Brockton to stop diverting as they have spent \$40,000 on the algae (alum) problem; other influences that effect Monponsett are septic systems, bogs, road run off, etc and would like the Commission and the City to work with cranberry growers and tell them to stop discharging into the pond, want Brockton to work collaboratively with them; Mr. Creedon attends meetings but they need the Commission, the Mayor and the City Council to be on board. Mr. Jordan stated that we are under a court order to have a second source of water, which is Aquaria, which is why we don't have any water restrictions. Some of the problems with the watersheds have existed for over a hundred years and realize that regionalization should probably be done; foreign matter costs us a

lot of money to make the water potable. We are willing to work with you, at some point the state is probably going to make others have a second source of water also, there are real issues that need to be dealt with and we are willing to work with others. Mr. Creedon stated that bog 18 is infringing on Stump Brook and the Fish & Wildlife Board is aware of this. The goal is to fill Silver Lake before April 1st. Mr. Rowley stated that the Mayor is going to appoint 2 people to the Board and that as neighbors we all need to work together also requested that an email be sent when they want the sluice gates opened, closed or for diversion. Mr. Creedon noted that the flows are sent every day. Mr. Jordan stated that we need to ensure communication; there are a number of things that need to be figured out in order to move forward, not opposed to studies, however we need to get things done and the monies that would be used for studies could possibly go to a resolution instead of the actual study. Mr. Creedon noted that there is a state body that we could go to for assistance. Mr. Hassan stated that we have a substantial downfall in our budgets and we need to think about cuts. Ms duBois stated that Silver Lake cannot be forgotten and questioned if the VA hospital is still on the system as they were on wells. Mr. Rowley stated that they are on the system and are doing infrastructure work and will be going back on wells. Ms Drinan stated that they would like to be kept informed on testing and questioned if water is tested to ensure that cyano bacteria is not present. Mr. Creedon stated that the water is tested and treated with chlorine; copies of the monthly test report will be sent.

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for discussion with Brad Chase, MA Division of Marine Fisheries – Forge Pond Dam. Mr. Chase stated that he has been to the Commission before regarding the installation of a fish ladder and he would like feedback on the letter that the Chair sent and would like to do a memorandum, the memorandum is not to install a fish ladder or do a memorandum, but only to start the process. Mr. Creedon stated that cost is an issue. Mr. Chase stated that this is to start the process and the coalition would find funds, but he is asking that we fund the gates to better manage the flow, doesn't expect Brockton to fund the fish way. Mr. Jordan stated that the plans that were previously bought showed 5 different options, the commission was concerned with the costs. Mr. Quinn stated that a spreadsheet was previously presented and thought that the state was funding the fish ladder, questioned where that funding went. Mr. Chase stated that he believes that funding fell apart and requested a letter to maintain a natural outlet which would not be a major cost, an MOA would be the way to go. Mr. Jordan stated that the Commission would need to review this again as there are new members. Mr. Quinn stated that there was a dam removed a few years ago which changed the entire area; this may be leverage for funding. Mr. Murphy questioned what our risks or liability would be and questioned if there was hesitation on agreeing to an MOA? Mr. Jordan stated that we need to review and go through the City Solicitors Office. Mr. Chase stated that a vote today would enable them to start; there is no obligation until documents are signed. Ms duBois stated that the Jones River Watershed Association has worked a long time with Mr. Chase and he is only looking for permission to move forward so he is not wasting his time, money is available and this provides a way to participate. Mr. Bragg stated that the fear is that down the road there would be some type of regulation on what we can draw from Silver Lake. Mr. Chase stated that the City has legislation and statute that maintains what can be drawn which cannot be changed, an MOA would be very explicit and would be managed release of fish intake, environmental requirements cannot make requirements on water registrations. Mr. Chase stated that he would like a vote to give Marine Fisheries permission to draft an MOA and give it to the attorneys, examples of other MOA's can be sent to review; there are no obligations.

Mr. Murphy moved to have Mr. Chase draft an MOA; this motion was seconded by Ms Archard, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Chase noted that he would like to propose an O & M for the site and will draft a plan to be reviewed at another time.

RECESS

Mr. Jordan noted that we need to ensure that all materials that are submitted to the Commission are read thoroughly.

Mr. Rowley stated that we need to raise our rates to take care of our infrastructure. Ms Archard stated that until Mr. Condon gets out of the way and we raise our rates we cannot do anything.

Mr. Rowley stated that he would like to eliminate the Assessors letter as part of the water application. Ms Archard stated that this is part of the master plan and who we decide to provide water to. Mr. Quinn stated that the bylaws state that this can be decided based on economic gain. The commission discussed this further,

Mr. Bragg moved to eliminate the assessors letter as a requirement to the water application, this motion was seconded by Mr. Hassan and so voted with 4 voting in the affirmative and 1, Ms Archard voting in the negative, motion passed.

Mr. Rowley reported on staffing stating that the 2 vacant positions are being filled. 400' of main on Poole Avenue has been replaced. Also, at approximately 4:00 AM on Thanksgiving a water main broke in the city, the Water Division looked for it on Friday and a general call back was done on Saturday, the break was found leaking into the Court Street river, approximately 1.5 million gallons was lost, the level of the twins was down and we were receiving dirty water calls in that area, if the PSI went below 20 a boil water order would have had to be issued. The gates were shut off, however the river needs to come down before anything can be repaired, will put this in the upcoming budget and when repaired would like to go over the bridge, desal was called and put online on Sunday and was shut off at 8:00 AM on Wednesday. Mr. Rowley stated that he is going to discuss a plan with Mike Sessine, the system is getting old and any new construction will have the water mains go up and over the bridges.

Mr. Rowley informed the commission that in order to cross and access the bridges that the desal piping crosses a course and test had to be taken, which has been completed. Mr. Jordan stated that we need to inform the public that the desal report is still being worked on.

The Commission decided that the next meeting would be on January 12th and a rate meeting must be held in February.

Mr. Bragg 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