



OFFICE OF THE  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
(978) 649-4514 FAX (978) 649-8893  
waterdept@dunstable-ma.gov

**Water Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

**Approved: 9/28/22**

John O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm  
Other member(s) present: Mat Morton  
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, lower level  
In attendance: Paul Brinkman, Pepperell Water Division

**Reviewed & Signed:**

- All Bills Outstanding Since Last Meeting
- All Payroll Outstanding Since Last Meeting
- Water Connection Forms

**Department Operations Update**

Mr. Voelker provided a brief update on the ARPA funded project for water infrastructure as part of the Rt. 113 Infrastructure Project. MassDOT and Lynch, their contractor, are amenable to an amendment to the contract between them to make this possible. Unfortunately the cost of the total project is more than was budgeted. As a result it was decided to jettison the Hillcrest Street piece and the loop down Westford Street. So the project will be just to replace pipe under Main Street. Still, there should be left over funds that could be combined with efforts to obtain an earmark. The Commission then turned to a water connection application from a property on Pleasant Street. The property is owned by MSR and is located down near the General Store and the intersection with Groton Street. Mr. Morton noted to Mr. Brinkman this is the second new connection we've done since the 1980's. So if our application is missing anything he invited Mr. Brinkman to let us know. Mr. Brinkman reviewed the application and noted a few things that are outdated. He suggested the department seek a little bit more information. In the meantime, Mr. O'Brien asked Mr. Brinkman if Pepperell has its own version that we could adapt that would be a bit more modern. Mr. Brinkman promised to send over copies of what Pepperell has. Otherwise, the Commission saw no reason not to approve the application for a water service connection. The Commission then briefly turned to Swallow-Union School. They haven't paid their bill and we've waited for a substantial period. We've told them we'll waive late fees, but they still must pay their bill. It was agreed that Ms. Bresnick would be directed to send them a letter. There were a few others with past due balances that the Commission wanted follow up on. It was agreed to contact all parties.

A motion was made by Mr. Morton to authorize the signing of the new water service connection application with the stipulation that the applicant provided any necessary drawings and certificates of insurance. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed by majority vote.

**Town of Pepperell Water Operator Services Review**

Paul began by noting it's been a few months and they'd like to have some feedback. Pepperell feels comfortable at this stage with going forward with an inter-municipal agreement. But they'd also like to talk about a long term plan. Pepperell has a PFAS problem and they need to figure out what to do. So one question is interest in the sale of water from a tie up between Pepperell and Dunstable's

systems. Mr. O'Brien asked how that would work. Mr. Brinkman noted a few challenges with pressure as Pepperell has a higher pressure. He noted a few reasons why a combination could be a positive development in DEP's eyes. DEP would also like to see a resolution to a PFAS problem at the Groton-Dunstable High School. So GDRSD might become involved in an expanded system. So those are kind of the visions for the future partnership. Still, permitting could drag it out 3-5 years. Mr. O'Brien asked if that's feasible for solving Pepperell's problems. Mr. Brinkman responded if they have to build a water treatment plant solution that can treat PFAS, it would still take 3 years or so to complete. This would work as a regional solution and there is expansion potential into West Groton as well. Mr. O'Brien responded that he's all for helping another town. Particularly where they're helping us. If Pepperell can pay for it, there was little likelihood that it would be opposed that we sell. Although in the past that has been a political issue. But this would tremendously help our ratepayers. It would benefit the whole town really. Mr. Brinkman then discussed with the Commission several ways a tie up would be done and how the pressure difference would be accounted for. All of this could potentially result in a new district. Like the Tyngsborough Water District. That's a 10 year out kind of goal. But realistic. Mr. Morton expressed agreement with Mr. O'Brien that it is indeed the consensus of the Commission that exploring tie up and sale of water would be in the interest of the department and town. Mr. Brinkman then reported on a few updates for the Dunstable system including a water bypass that had to be done regarding the Rt. 113 Project. Things are in good shape and moving forward. The Water Divisions personnel are satisfied with their work in town. Mr. Brinkman then brought up a matter relating to the hydropneumatic tanks. Mr. O'Brien responded by outlining how they were decommissioned once the water tower came on line. He asked that if there is anything we need to do there that Pepperell let us know. Mr. Brinkman promised to research the matter and provide follow up.

### **Next Meeting/Regular Meetings**

The next meeting is expected to be scheduled for September 21, 2022. Mr. Voelker pointed out that the Lake Massapoag Rod & Gun Club will be using the Town Hall that evening for its annual meeting and suggested considering September 28.

### **Authorization of Accounts Payable & Payroll**

The Commission considered and signed off on all of its outstanding bills. The Commission then reviewed and approved payment of the bills and also signed all outstanding department payroll. Mr. O'Brien then briefly reported on all bills he'd reviewed and approved since the last meeting in his capacity as chair. He noted these are the usual ones, utilities, alarm, and the like.

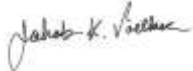
### **Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes from its meeting held on July 20, 2022. Seeing no reason to modify the minutes the Commission determined to accept the minute.

A motion was made by Mr. Morton to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed by majority vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Morton at 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and passed by majority vote.

Respectfully submitted by



Jakob K. Voelker  
Assistant Town Administrator