

**Water Commissioners' Meeting
August 5, 2014**

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The July 8, 2014 minutes were approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager and Superintendent updated the Board on the status of the grant opportunity for East Templeton thru the CDBG project. Templeton Water had already mailed out the roughly 150 flyers with income surveys to the area residents and had actually re-mailed several of those in an effort to maximize the amount of feedback to maximize the amount of grant funding released for projects. He will be getting regular updates from Mike Pingpank and hopefully the first round of this project would begin in the spring of 2015.

New Business:

The Superintendent updated the Board on two recent water main breaks; one on Patriots Road in Templeton and the other on Norcross Street in Baldwinville. The break on Patriots Road was similar to past breaks in that area of comparable road damage. But the break on Norcross Street was extremely harsh on the road due to the break's proximity to the Hospital Road Water Tank and generally high pressure in the low lying water zone. The Superintendent had previously stated that the main valve at the bottom of this tank was 16" in width and really should be something closer to 8". The amount of flow made possible by the 16" tank valve is the main reason for the level of damage done to Norcross Street where the 8" A-C main ruptured. The Superintendent was in the process of obtaining quotes to pave both areas as soon as possible.

The Manager shared an e-mail to the MA DEP with the Board regarding the painting of the Ladder Hill Water Tank on Johnson Avenue. This e-mail had informed the MA DEP that Templeton Water was aware of the problem and had already secured Tighe & Bond to provide a cost estimate to do this work. The Manager had explained in this e-mail that Templeton Water had just had to, in December 2013, implement a water rate increase of 23% just to stay in operation. A project of this scope would necessitate more funds to be collected thru water rates above and beyond the recent 23% increase, so a general obligation bond would be the traditional route. But the Manager explained to the MA DEP that Templeton had recently had its bond rating withdrawn making any general obligation bond borrowing impossible.

The USDA Loan process would be the only way for Templeton Water to secure much needed funding to do this water tank painting and maybe some other projects as well, and he was fairly certain that this type of borrowing did not require a town meeting vote, but only a board vote. The Manager and the Superintendent would be meeting with both Tighe & Bond and a representative from the USDA this month to discuss some preliminary loan terms so Templeton Water can determine how they will fund these capital projects, one of which would result in notices of non-compliance from the MA DEP.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager