Town of Rowley

Municipal Water Department
401 Central St., Rowley, MA
Office: 978.948.2640

October 1, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairperson, Bernie Cullen, Commissioner, Mark Emery, Superintendent, Bob Gray, Primary Water Operator, Rob Swiniarske, Administrative Assistant, Kathy Bento

Chairman Cullen opened the meeting at 6:40.

Agenda Items:

1. **Discuss unaccounted for water:**
   Rob said the unaccounted-for water has been exceedingly high for the last ten years. He believes it is due to misread meters and not leaks. He said he has seen a drop from a 17% loss to an 8% loss since the operators have been changing out the larger meters. He will study the reads from all replaced meters and make a comparison when the new meters are able to be read.

2. **Discuss gas service at the Water Treatment Plant:**
   Rob explained that he is waiting for National Grid to tell us how to proceed. They will need to repair their end and then we hire a plumber to repair the rest of the generator.

3. **Discuss public education notice regarding PFAS:**
   Rob explained that the public needs to be notified that we are out of compliance with the DEP, exceeding the maximum contaminate level. The notice needs to be reviewed by the DEP. Commissioner Manning said we need to tell the DEP that we are going to continue using well #2 and if we are out of compliance in three months, we will shut the well down, or, if the state will not give us another quarter, we will shut the well down and raise the rates.

4. **Discuss the status of projects:**
   Rob explained that the Fennor Dr. project will begin soon. He will be meeting with the contractor on October 7th.

   Regarding the New Well Source project, Chair Cullen said we need to ask for additional funding for the test wells.

   Regarding the Lead Service Line Inventory, Rob said his progress draft to the DEP is complete and that Tata & Howard is looking for more State funding.

5. **Discuss waiving final bills due to issues with home closings:**
   Chair Cullen said to notify Pennichuck that going forward, we will not waive bills from previous owners, the bills will be passed on to new owners.

6. **Discuss budget:**
   No discussion.

Approve minutes:
May 21, 2024: Chair Cullen motioned to approve. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 8:10.**

June 25, 2024: Chair Cullen motioned to approve. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 8:12.**

July 23, 2024**:** Chair Cullen motioned to approve. Commissioner Manning seconded**. All in favor at 8:12.**

Next meeting:
Week of October 22nd.

Adjourn:
Commissioner Manning motioned to approve. Chair Cullen seconded**. All in favor at 8:13.**

Minutes approved on December 18, 2024.

Minutes prepared respectfully by Kathy Bento.

Documents provided/discussed at the meeting are available at the Water Department office:
Meeting Agenda
Budget reports

Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, S.23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and any actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for context only, and no Certification, express or implied, be made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.