

WEST NEWBURY BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MARCH 13, 2024  
10:00 A.M. WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Commissioners present: Bob Janes, Chair, Jack Duggan and Larry Corcoran  
Mark Marlowe Superintendent and Jodi Bertrand, Administrative Assistant

Rob Phillips, Finance Committee  
Angus Jennings, Town Manager and Rick Parker, Select Board

Meeting called to order at 10:03

Review balances, correspondence and draft minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>. Janes moved to approve minutes, unanimous. Also distributed the minutes from Tata & Howard from the Pre-Construction meeting February 29<sup>th</sup>. (Executive session minutes from May 5<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> being held)

**Water Rates-** discussion of public meeting logistics, opening the hearing, public comments, closing hearing and voting on the rate increase. Jennings will have a script to follow to help with the moving within the hearing. Bertrand will make a sign in sheet with name and address, this will aid in taking minutes and when a resident speaks it can be noted. Duggan handed out updated “slide show” that will be used at the meeting to explain the water being used and the rates, showing uptake in water usage from Newburyport, drought conditions using more Newburyport water. Then wet/rainy data when Newburyport is not used as much. Duggan also shows the average usage of specific customers. Duggan went over each page with many good points for the water users to see how important it is to stay below the conservation rate and how much can be saved by not purchasing Newburyport Water. Duggan edited his Summary of Water Use and Water Rates and will print out a new copy before meeting.

**FY25 Budget and Article-** CIC meeting with Water Department on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

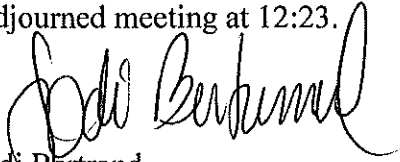
**Other Matters:**

- Public Meeting, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00pm being held at the Annex.
- Tata & Howard Rate Study with updated Debt information. Marlowe said they were updating and he has not heard anything since.
- Rick Parker started a discussion on Newburyport Water and engaging in a relationship with them.
- Duggan showed an article in the Daily News today that showed they would be getting federal funding \$883k for a study to a proposed project that allows the city to send and receive water from the Indian Hill Reservoir. This was announced from Warren, Markey and Moulton when West Newbury was not involved at all when this is on West Newbury’s town property. Duggan would like to approach Newburyport Water to be at their next meeting.
- Bertrand discussed 511 Main who had a high read, had contacted David and he did mention that he left a hose running and Mark had remembered he called with a brown water complaint. Mark put the two together and that could have caused the brown water to be pulled in if the hose was running that long. Jason and Donny also noticed they put in raised beds and 2 new buildings out back. Bertrand also contacted Cindy Adams by email about her high usage hoping to have some

response to see if there was some event that would have caused the usage, with no leak. Donny and Jason had seen the Christmas trees being watered (hose left on?) and Conner was out back for some sort of conservation issue. I will try to contact her again. Mark, Donny and Jason will look into the Farm and possible change meter at 511 Main Street seeing it will need to be replaced soon.

Angus Jennings left the office at 11:36.

Adjourned meeting at 12:23.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Bertrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jodi" and last name "Bertrand" clearly distinguishable.

Jodi Bertrand  
Administrative Assistant