



**Cogswell Spring Water Works  
Water Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

**Members Present:** Jerry Gilbert, Chairman; Bill Hall, Commissioner; Jeff Connor, Commissioner;

**Guests:** Ryan Bumford, Chief Operator

**Recording Secretary:** Kelly McCutcheon

Review Minutes:

**Commissioner Hall moved to approve the November 16<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Chair Gilbert seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Non-public:

**Chair Gilbert moved to enter into non-public. Commissioner Connor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Chair Gilbert moved to exit non-public. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Chief Operators Report for December Meeting:

- State Requirements
  - Monthly Bacteria Test was Negative
  - We are Chlorinating from both the Davison tank and Building 1 Pump House
- Truck
  - Russ says that we do have enough money left over in the budget to purchase a vehicle
  - The final price for the truck specked from Hillsboro Ford is \$63,714. The price is good for 2 weeks
- Extractions
  - I did three extractions of meters due to customer concerns on water used
    - 95 Hall Ave
      - It is an apartment building being run by a company
- Budget
  - Budget is updated as discussed
  - General Linen
    - \$50 a week minimum. They cost \$10 per person. So we would be losing money
- Cracked Chemical Line
  - While doing rounds on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> I found that a Chemical Feed Line in Building 1 was split and leaking chemicals. Given that Edmunds was not open I could not get the

part I needed to replace it. I left that chemical pump off line for the day and on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> I replaced the part and put the pump back into service.

- Fire Extinguishers
  - Inspection was completed
- Final Reads -2
  - 31 Newton RD
  - 73 Hillside Drive

Chair Gilbert asked about the chlorine taste of his water on Sunday. Chief Operator Ryan stated it was caused by no bacteria in the tank to eat the chlorine.

The Commissioners want to confirm with Russ (Financial Director) if numbers provided to pay for the truck come from billings or budget. According to Russ there is \$100,000 left after all bills have been paid. Dennis at Hillsboro Ford can hold price for 2 weeks. Commissioner Connor asked if the truck is a 3<sup>rd</sup> door/suicide door or regular door super cab. Ryan will get an answer from Dennis. Commissioner Connor asked if Dennis could find a Dodge Truck. Ryan will get in touch and find out.

Chief Operator Ryan met on site of 95 Hall Ave with the Landlord for the excessive water bill. They discovered numerous college students living in the apartment.

With the corrected budget numbers the department will be losing \$30 per week if using General Linen for uniforms based on a two-person department. The majority of other places have similar prices.

The Chemical leak was not in the containment system. Chair Gilbert asked about the chemicals. Ryan stated there are usually two people, one being Chief Operator Ryan and a pump operator. Two people are needed for safety.

The Fire extinguishers have been inspected, two final reads completed, and Ryan is waiting for a Dig Safe for NEC (New England College). NEC is boring next to the gym and believes they are putting in a temporary building. Chair Gilbert stated his concern about the old water line. Chief Operator Ryan stated the old line comes out copper and hooks into plastic going by the hydrant where they put in a T and stubbed out. Chief Operator Ryan stated he would be concerned for the line coming out from the fire hydrant and hooking up to the gym.

#### Old Business:

##### 2022 Budget & Proposed Truck from Hillsboro Ford

The Commissioners decided to hold their open budget meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm before the regular meeting at the Davison Road Office. Chief Operator Ryan stated EPJ and the truck numbers are not listed in the budget. Commissioner Connor stated the truck price is only good for 2 weeks and they are considering changing brands to a Dodge. Chief Operator Ryan will look to confirm if \$100,000 is available in the account to use towards a truck next year. It was asked if the body could be replaced on the current truck. Ryan stated the body is rusting out but the transmission and chassis are good and same with the plow. Commissioner Connor stated they can throw lipstick on a pig and clean up the bottom of the truck and have it oiled. Commissioner Hall asked if the department is selling the current

truck. Chief Operator Ryan stated they are selling the current truck, and has a sale price but it is not listed in the packet materials.

The body for a new truck would be about \$9,000 and once installed \$15,000. Commissioner Connor asked if it could be painted to match with the current truck and a new body. Chair Gilbert asked if they would like to table until next year. Commissioner Hall stated no since they have been putting it off for the last 3-4 years to budget balances and project needs. Commissioner Hall stated he is unsure what the department would get if they sell the truck. Commissioner Connor stated if it is not possible to trade the truck in, then it can be sent to auction.

Commissioner Hall stated his concern of buying a truck from unexpended funds with no public input. Commissioner Connor agreed. If the truck quote is added to the budget that will leave capital reserve funds plus what they can get selling the current truck. Chair Gilbert stated it may be better to ask for a separate line item with no impact to the town budget, only to water users. Chair Gilbert stated they should carry it as separate line item for the 2022 budget.

Chief Operator Ryan confirmed the Commissioners want the truck in the 2022 budget. Chair Gilbert stated that it will raise feathers if they just buy a new truck when the department already overspent on the Circle Street project due to increased material cost and extension of line. Commissioner Connor agreed the truck should be separate line item in the 2022 budget. Commissioner Hall also agreed and stated it being in the budget does not raise the water bill.

New Business:

None

Commissioners Concerns:

None

Next Meeting:

January 18, 2022 at 4pm

Adjourn:

**Commissioner Hall moved to adjourn. Commissioner Connor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.**

Adjourned at 5:55pm