

May 8, 2024
Westerlo Water Board Meeting
Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chairman Bill Bichteman with the pledge to the flag.

Attending were Bill Bichteman, Water Board Chairman, Gerry Boone and Kelley Keefe, Water Board members, Doug Story, Water System Operator, and Lisa DeGroff Confidential Administrator.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Motion by Gerry Boone and second by Bill Bichteman. Carried

Hydrant Repair Status

Flach changed the hydrant by the fire station. The hydrants here are supposed to be 5'6" buried hydrants but for whatever reason, that one had a one foot extension on it so they had to rush out to buy another extension for it. When they called Bill about it, he didn't have him buy it under our account so they used theirs and we may have to pay some sort of markup on that. The problem was, and it is something that should be noted for the record, is the connection pipe on the bottom is supposedly a plow type adapter which means there is no thrust lock required against the back side of the hydrant. The whole thing flange bolts to the hydrant and to that and it can't come off because the end of the pipe has this square lug on it so it can't come off. When they uncovered it, the mounting holes in that lug around the outside were so corroded that it was questionable if it would hold or not. Considering that point in the line is one of the more pressured areas, anything in the lower plane and down the hill across the stream, are over 100 psi static pressure so they had to put an additional clamp on the bottom of it to hold it so they had to get that as well. There is an extra charge for materials that they have yet to verify. Lisa has given Bill the bills and they are ready to be processed, however there are some errors in the billing. They charged us for a machine size bigger than what they actually used or that we requested, and they apparently have a markup on top of that that we haven't seen either. We don't have the original invoice from FW Webb for those parts, the hydrant extension, and the other parts so the prices on the invoice seem to be higher than he anticipated. He understands a fair markup rate, but they seem to have gone a bit higher than expected so he is still reviewing it before we can authorize the payment.

Bill stated that it is disturbing that this hydrant was installed in 2005 and that cast iron pipe should last way longer than 20 years, so that is a concern. Some concerns are more corrosive than others, especially soils that have any kind of ash content in them and maybe it's just a localized thing that right there may have been a burn pit there or something. Bill didn't think the stream beside there added to the corrosion. Lisa asked if the Fire Company washes trucks there, which Kelley stated they do. She asked if any of the chemicals could have caused the corrosion. Bill didn't think that would be a factor. Doug asked if we needed to test the soil, to which Bill stated he didn't think it would make a difference at this point. It's just something that we should pay attention to as we could continue to have failures.

Bill hasn't been able to examine the hydrant that was removed.

Purchase Orders

Bill reminded Doug that he needs to use purchase orders when he buys supplies and such, but in the interest of efficiency, asked for a dollar amount that triggers the need for one. Kelley made a motion that they are required for anything over \$200; Second by Bill and carried. Doug asked if the Water Dept. has an account with a hardware store. Lisa stated that it wouldn't necessarily have to be a Water Department account depending on how the purchase is made. We have accounts with

Lowe's, GNH, Home Depot and Harbor Freight but depending on how the purchase is made, she can probably assist with that process. The Highway Garage has accounts with FW Webb and she's sure a whole host of other places. He could always call and ask her if the town has an account with a vendor. Bill stated that it doesn't mean that he can bypass the purchase order policy, regardless. If it is over \$200 it still needs a purchase order.

The procedure will be that Doug will let Bill know and he will write the purchase order, initial it and give it Lisa to attach it to the invoice when it comes in.

Lead Service Line Inventories – Doug has provided us with the latest communication from the Health Department dealing with this. He will set up a meeting with the Dept. of Health for clarification on what is required of us.

Funding – Rensselaerville used a company to do survey to get the median income of residents of their water district. This is something we may want to investigate.

Fire Hydrant Use Policy – Someone from the state wanted to use a hydrant but didn't give full details. It turned out that it was to clean culverts on Route 143 before they pave it this summer.

Metered Scales – We would need to have a policy change to dictate who would be allowed to use the hydrant.

Bill had to cancel his meeting with Matt. Lisa suggested that the ARPA money be deposited into the Reserve Fund. It can only be used for infrastructure, so it has to be used for Broadband or the Water District. Kelley asked if we know yet how much money we are talking about and Lisa doesn't know yet.

Lisa stated that the key project is done and all the keys are labeled.

Bill suggested that rather than our whole board meeting every month, he can meet with Doug, Lisa and Matt to work on some things before bringing it to us for a vote.

Gerry made a motion to adjourn at 6:45; seconded by Kelley and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Keefe