

Water Board Meeting 9.13.21

Present: Jim Slawinski, Devon DeMarco, Tom Cleland, Julia Klingensmith, Dave Snyder, Scott Kingan, Resident Susan Rhoades

We have been getting billed by Servline quarterly, Julia says it makes more sense to pay them monthly so she has put in for that change. It will help with cash flow. Servline has changed its name but everything else has stayed the same. There's about 580 homes that have the coverage. Servline does not cover anything listed as a commercial property, so they don't cover town buildings. You need a separate policy for that and it's very expensive. That includes street dept building, town building, police garage, water pump house. Some residents ask for their water bill to be in their business's name, but that means they can't get the insurance. The last of the billing errors have been addressed.

Scott has been keeping watch on the SWIF grant website. The date they will announce grant recipients keeps getting pushed back. We should have found out today. Judging by changes on the website, it looks like a decision has been made, so hopefully we will hear in the next couple days. The delay was apparently due to the large number of applicants. The first two installments on ARP (COVID relief money) has come through. The town council has not earmarked it for anything specific yet.

In terms of water bills, there were about 50 delinquent accounts, 18 got shut off notices, and only 2 required shut offs.

It's hard to tell which properties are owner occupied vs. tenant situations. We need to get updated contracts from everyone.

Location services—Mark should have finished the update for Indiana 811. He is handling the dispatch of those calls. Once he's done with that, he can call them and ask for who called in the locates that we are being charged thousands for. Tom can't do it because he's not listed on the account.

Water Rate increase update: we did the presentation on why we need a rate increase, how it will affect bills, etc. The water rate increase must be posted in the newspaper, then there needs to be a public hearing via zoom on Sept. 29 at 7pm. Town Council will attend and can vote on it. Once it is in place, it will take a while to get it put into the system. Software Company told Julia that as long as the resolution is in place, they can get started on it and then make minor changes if necessary.

Employee training: Downing came out and taught employees how to change meters. Tom Cleland also spent the day with them to flush hydrants. Round 2 of hydrant flushing will take place by the end of the month before leaf pick up. Hydrant flushing can cause discoloration in water. Dave suggested sending out an email to residents letting them know there may be some discoloration. Jim will also put it on the website.

Third quarter meter reading scheduled for 6, 7, 8 October.

Future part-time help: if anyone knows of anyone who would like part time work from time to time, such as helping with hydrant flushing or meter reading, let the board know. We are good at the moment but could need additional help in the future.

Do we need to cover any meters during the October readings for insulation? We need to look into it. We also need to identify how many deep meters we have.

Wireless meter software training: Julia and Jim will check schedules and figure out a day that's good for training. Late this week or late next week could work.

Scott is no longer going to be a water board liaison. If Dave can't make it to a meeting in the future, Scott has graciously agreed to step in from time to time.

Resident Susan Rhoades had some questions regarding the combining of Street and Water Depts. Dave and Jim clarified that the departments are still separate, some employees work some hours for water and then some for street department; when they work for each department, they are paid for those hours out of the respective accounts. There has never been a full-time water department employee and employees have overlapped with the street department before. We are contracting out testing to a third-party company who also serves as our operator. They have been doing a good job and it's more cost effective than hiring an employee just for that. Right now there's \$5500 in repair fund. We need about \$100k in the fund in case something happens to the infrastructure, i.e., something big blows, it will be at least \$25k to fix it. Our operating fund is doing ok, it's the capital/repair fund that needs to increase dramatically.

X

Devon Demarco
Water Board Director

X

Tom Cleland
Water Board Director

X

Jim Slawinski
Water Board Director