

PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD

The 400th meeting of the Pawtucket Water Supply Board met on December 14th, 2021 at 5:00 PM at the Pawtucket Water Supply Board, 85 Branch Street, Pawtucket RI.
The Chairperson, William Masuck, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

PWSB Members Present

William Masuck - present
James Bradford – not present
Thomas Hodge - present
Mike Araujo – present
Joanna L'Heureux –present
Mark Theroux - present

PWSB Staff Present

James DeCelles - Chief Engineer
Russ Houde - Assistant Chief Engineer
Christopher Collins – Source Water Manager
Robert Benson – CFO
Joe Keough – Attorney
Katie Peters – Executive Assistant

Public Attendees – None

4. Consent Agenda

Chief Engineer gave an update on the Bristol County, East Providence, and Attleboro connections. Attleboro is hoping to final designs in place very soon and they planning to be able to bid in the spring. Bristol County is constructing the first phase of their pipeline, they are in the design phase of their second phase of their pipeline. East Providence may finally come to the table and join the process. General discussion followed about the state of PWSB finances and how the budget is managed.

A motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mike Araujo.

Roll Call Taken:

William Masuck - Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Joanna L'Heureux – Yes

Mark Theroux - Yes

APPROVED

5A. Executive Session

It was decided that executive session was not necessary, and discussion regarding the Rate Consultant Service Contract would take place in open session.

New Business:

6A. Rate Consultant

A recommendation was made that the board approve the Rate Consultant Service Contract from Raftelis. Raftelis is a local company who has worked extensively within Rhode Island.

A motion to approve the contract was made by Joanna L'Heureux and seconded by Mike Araujo.

Roll Call Taken:

William Masuck - Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Joanna L'Heureux – Yes

Mark Theroux - Yes

APPROVED

6B. PWSB Tax Sales

Jim DeCelles updated with the board with the plan to send out letters in February 2022 to customers who owe water bills in excess of \$500, alerting them that they could be up for a water shutoff and then a subsequent tax sale if no movement is made to pay down the balance on their account. Water shutoffs would begin in March or April of 2022. Tax sale notices would go out in July 2022. It was decided that it was preferable to start with shutoffs instead of jumping right into tax sales. It is the PWSB's hope that with the reinstatement of late payment interest, people would come in and pay their bills to avoid paying interest. It was decided that another delinquency letter would be sent out with the next billing urging people with outstanding balances to pay their bill or set up a payment plan to avoid shut offs and tax sales.

6D.a. Bill Adjustment Request – 110 Railroad St - Central Falls

Ms. Lucia Ferreira sent a letter to the Board requesting relief from a high water bill in the months of September and October 2021. However, subsequent bills in November and December have shown normal billing amounts.

PWSB recommends that the Board deny Ms. Lucia Ferreira's request for relief from her water bill, in accordance with the Pawtucket Water policy.

Motion to deny bill adjustment was made by Thomas Hodge and seconded by Mark Theroux.

Roll Call Taken:

William Masuck - Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

Joanna L'Heureux – Yes

Mark Theroux - Yes

APPROVED

Next scheduled meeting will be on January 11th, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Araujo and seconded by Mark Theroux.

Roll Call Taken:

William Masuck - Yes

Thomas Hodge – Yes

Mike Araujo – Yes

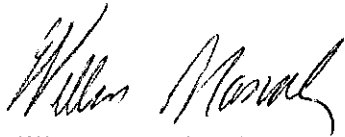
Joanna L'Heureux – Yes

Mark Theroux - Yes

APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Certified by PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD, recorded by kp

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Masuck".

William Masuck, Chairperson