



HARVARD WATER - SEWER COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Harvard Town Hall

Cindy Russo, Chair *Kyle Hedrick* *Richard Maiore*

Present

Cindy Russo, Chair; Kyle Hedrick, Commissioner; Rick Maiore, Commissioner; Tim Bragan, Town Administrator; Tim Kilhart, DPW Director, Joan Eliyesil, Harvard Press.

1. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Russo at 2 p.m.
2. There was no Public Comment.
3. The Minutes of January 15 were approved as corrected.
4. Tim K reported on an accident that took place Saturday evening, February 1. The hydrant in front of the Bromfield School was hit by a juvenile driver, resulting in water gushing from the hydrant. The tank, which has a capacity of 310,000 gallons and generally holds between 280,000 and 285,000 gallons, was completely drained.

Tim K followed the procedures from the emergency plan. He declared a Water Emergency and notified MassDEP. He notified Tim Bragan and the Fire Chief, who is the emergency management director. It was after hours so DEP employees were not on the job, but they returned to work and shut off the water. They were not able to shut it off at hydrant gate, it was shut it off at Mass Ave and behind Bromfield. The pumps were turned on and began filling the tank at a rate of 3000 gallons per hour. With the assistance of the Fire Chief, a reverse 911 call was made to residents and MEMA was contacted regarding the need for bottled water.

DEP issued a boil water order and a requirement for emergency chlorination on Sunday morning. Chief Sicard (with the assistance of others) hand delivered bottled water, the boil water order and CTY Connect forms to homes in the water district. A copy of the notices delivered is attached.

Tim K had a meeting with the Superintendent on Sunday. Schools were closed on Monday but re-opened on Tuesday. All water tests were clean on Monday and Tuesday. The boil water order and emergency chlorination were lifted by DEP on Wednesday morning. As of Wednesday morning, there were 196,000 gallons of water in the tank. Residents will have normal pressure. A CTY connect message has gone out saying boil water order is over and the same message is on the Town website. The Message board has been changed.

The Commission commended Tim K for his excellent handling of the situation.

There was a discussion of whether a situation of this type could be prevented in the future. Kyle asked if there could be a shutoff at the tank in the event too much water flowing from the tank. Tim B has asked Ty and Bond to investigate this.

Tim K is keeping track of the costs incurred.

5. Tim B reported regarding the school's application for public bathrooms. According to Ira the DEP rule is 10 gallons per person per day per toilet. Tim B has asked DEP for guidance in applying the rule and has asked Dan Root if they know of actual flows from any other public restrooms.

The meeting was adjourned 2:40.