

MPIC Minutes for April 19, 2023

Attendance: Dave Golden, Timothy Cienciwa (chair), Nick Zeo, Normal Czech, Richard Poblieso, Andrea Sullivan

Absent: Amber Kumpulianian, Michael Dee

Meeting start: 6:02pm

MPIC asks about challenges facing their department- staffing, they currently have one full time employee (Nichole), one part time employee (Rich), and an administrative assistant that works 18-20 hours a week.

MPIC asks what the boards responsibilities are and the challenges they face- hiring, oversee the fire department in district.

**They had said that the cost of the restoration was 1.5m and they were waiting to see how much they would be awarded.**

The DEP conducts an inspection every 3 years

District was given title of best drinking water in the country in 2007.

Three Rivers and Bondsville districts are connected by pipeline.

Three Rivers issues quarterly bills, Palmer charges monthly.

Three Rivers District claims their rates are lower than other districts.

Board mentions that they measure water by the gallon, Palmer measures by cubic feet.

**Board reveals there is a 12" sealed water main located on Bondsville/Ware line which was installed at the time of the building of the Quabbin due to the disturbance done to residents of Bondsville when damming the Swift River and which has never utilized.**

They believe this would have to be used before a casino or water park could operate in Palmer.

MPIC asked about survey from state auditor- they did respond back to the Town Manager

They spoke about the 4-member board that they created to look into the feasibility of combining with other districts.

The water department is open to the idea but is looking for town council to come up with the terms.

this means- what should be combined first? ordering supplies, chlorine, office supplies, engineers, services- all in an effort to save money.

The water department is concerned with water quality, they believe they have a higher quality water, other districts do not.

They also spoke about the difficulty of pumping water to Palmer that is on a higher elevation than the rest of the town.

The water department mentioned they sell water to Capone's Pool Water from a hydrant on Main Street.

The department shared their concern with a government action that states if there is an issue resulting in a water ban in any town in Hampden County the entire county would

be required to stop using their water. They are working together with other districts and acquired an attorney to fight this regulation.

MPIC discussed railroad's potential future- group discussed what still needed to be done and acted on by town.

Town manager needed to be reached for questions should we pursue further.

Tim asked the group what we should act on next- railroad or presenting to Town Council what we have done so far at a potential June meeting.

Tim informed the group he has spoken to Town Manager about recruiting new members to MPIC and effective the last meeting in June, it will be his last meeting, submitted resignation from MPIC.

Tim said Town manager will discuss with Town Council about putting a liaison back on the MPIC and recruiting new members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm