



## **CHESTER Water Commission CHESTER TOWN HALL Meeting Minutes**

24 February 2023

Members Present: Lyle Snide (Chair)  
Bob Daley  
Tom Bean

Members Absent: none

Others present: Maryanna Broman  
Elaine Gilmore (remote)  
Norma MacDonald (remote)

Meeting called to order at 4:05pm.

Item 1: The minutes from the 10 November 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Item 2: The draft Blandford-Chester shared water operator MOU dated 17FEB2023 was reviewed. The draft was accepted without change. PVPC and Blandford will be notified of this.

Item 3: A public update was provided on actions taken to improve the public water quality, including:

- Material improvements to the water plant (new metering, chemical pumps, SCADA improvements)
- Hired a part-time water laborer to assist in distribution operations
- Discussed intent to eventually hire a full time water operator
- Will start conducting routine hydrant flushing of the distribution system this spring; will result in temporary cloudy or colored water when flushing occurs
- Working on a second, part-time shared water operator with Blandford; should start this spring
- Commencing a water operator intern program with Gateway Regional School to increase the number of available water operators in western Mass
- Pursuing reactivation of Austin Brook Reservoir as a water source
- Will be conducting an engineering analysis, as required by MA DEP, to review the water treatment scheme and make recommendations to reduce disinfection byproduct levels
- Discussed the impact on the water system in the Prospect Street area when a storm drain replacement project starts in May: a temporary water main bypass will be installed for Prospect St. customers while construction is being conducted. The project should be completed by end of June.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Submitted,

Lyle Snide, Chair, Water Commission