

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
MARCH 9, 2009
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Caten, Fran McNamara and Niles Busler.

GUESTS PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse and Jean Dinon- clerk.

Jack opened the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jack presented note from Kim Fales, town accountant, dated February 17, 2009 from Pioneer Consulting Group, Inc. re: Water rates. Paul is going to contact them. Paul said they did a study in West Groton.
2. Paul discussed/reviewed Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MaWARN) Agreement. Paul said there is no cost. There is an agreement describing responsibility of the person calling into town responding to what is connected. It is going to be required anyway. It is an understanding help concerning bigger disasters. It is one of the elements to get future assistance.
DECISION: The board voted unanimously to sign Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network agreement.
3. Paul discussed/reviewed amend/replace Section 12 (Use of water during dry season) of the Water Department and recommendations implementing water use restrictions in accordance with our water management act permit. It should have been in place by spring of 2007. It is effective from May 1st to September 30th. We cannot restrict water to businesses that rely on it for greenhouses and livestock. It is basically no watering for at least two days during the week. No watering between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Jack said you are going to have a hard time enforcing it. It is going out with the bills and published in local papers. It has to be done by April 1st. Paul asked if have any suggestions for monitoring it. Police will be notified. It is of DEP that we are doing it.
DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to amend Section 12 (use of water during dry season) of the Water Department rules and regulations implementing water use restrictions in accordance with our water management act permit.
4. Paul reported town change energy providers. There would be possible projected savings of 6-8%. Greg Barnes said town is changing emergency providers. Since we are the biggest user of the town that we will have 8-9%. Jack said a few businesses have been approached about this. Money will be extracted from the checking account. Niles said just change electricity providers. Unitil is the meter main use. The company is out of Canada. The company produces the electricity. Paul said anything is better that what we have. Niles said a lot of people will change over, and Unitil will go up anyway because profits are down.
5. Paul reported titration tests completed and confirming corrosion control treatment. The tests were completed last Friday. Paul is sending information to Stantec, and they will submit it to DEP. Stantec said other has not come up much and have to keep high on control. Twenty-five percent will work but 50% will bill off. The best treatment is KOH chemical.
6. Paul reported meeting at Acton Water District re: residential sprinkler systems for fire protection. Do any of the commissioners wish to attend? The meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2009 at Acton Water District. Paul will attend.
7. **DECISION:** Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of February 9, 2009.
8. Jean reported February accounts receivable reports.
9. Jean reported HD Industrial Way LLC, 85 Ash Street, would like the late fee waived.

DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to abate the late charge of \$5.51 to HD Industrial Way LLC, 85 Ash Street.

10. Paul discussed/reported that got call from 16 Woodland Road. The caller wants to know if well was still working. A member of the household is on dialysis and uses a lot of water. Paul suggested using public water supply if not going to get well tested regularly. He would have to have well totally disconnected when using for medical reasons. Niles said to transfer to Board of Health.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Paul discussed/reviewed 107 Fitchburg Road with regards to installing a gate on access road to storage tank. Paul said there is a little shack. There is no work done on this shack for 20 years. Shack is current with taxes and is assessed at \$46,400.00, and Paul wants opinion of the board on whether to contact owner and offer \$5,000.00 or if plans to keep place and have him sign an agreement we can put up gate before Amy's. Paul talked to Amy today. He would have to tear it down and replace it. Amy has started the process of putting in a driveway. Niles said to approach neighbor in front of property (Mrs. Doolan) to buy property or maybe town would be interested as town property abuts property too. The town doesn't have any money. It is in the best interest of the Water Department if the road and offer to owner of Uncle Willy's. What if current owner wants to build a new house and to have to get permits and would have long legal issues. There is 250' from road to property. We are going to be getting about 40' from the road. It is not the intent to make it hard on Mrs. Collins and is in the best interest of the Water Department. Bob Hotaling told St. Hilaire that he couldn't use the road. Jack said to call owner and see what intent is with the property and see if interested in selling it. We are willing to let him use the road if he signs an agreement. If owner knows he can't use the road, just put up the gate. He can call when he wants to use the road, but he needs to sign the agreement.
2. Jack asked about status on the repeater. It was caused by surge. Jack asked if has surge protector. Insurance doesn't cover surges, and there is \$1,000.00 deductible. Paul will approach Chief Erving Marshall as far as us maintaining cost of repairing repeater station.
3. Jack asked if Paul has plan for meters. Paul is still checking it out. Paul is still working on a plan.
4. Fran asked about status of cameras. Niles and Paul meet with guy and is same cameras as he proposed originally. Paul said it can really zoom in. Put one camera on pole of station one and another camera can be placed in station 2. There is going to be black and white and doesn't need much light. Paul wants to see it in the dark. Niles would like a deadline of June 1, 2009. Improvements can be made later. Paul said Walt and Security Alarms were close in price. The other two wanted to bury the cable.

The warrant signing is Monday, March 30, 2009.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 13, 2009.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean R. Dinon, Clerk