

SPECIAL WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
APRIL 27, 2006
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fran McNamara and Jack Caten. Bob Moorehouse was absent.

GUESTS PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse.

Fran opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was held to discuss the contribution of funds from the Water Enterprise Fund to purchase land off of Vinton Pond Road for additional source protection in collaboration with contributing funds from the Town and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Paul said there is approximately \$170,000.00 to \$175,000.00 in the retained earnings left and will be getting additional funds even though the Town is looking for these funds before the end of June. The state is contributing 1.825 million, the developers are asking 2 million and the Town between other departments, donations or contributions are looking for \$175,000.00. Paul met with Town Administrator Greg Barnes, and he indicated if the Water Department could contribute anything since we had a vested interest in the property. Paul asked him what his idea of what we could contribute was \$75,000.00, and the Town could raise by whatever purposes the other \$100,000.00. The purpose of the meeting is if the Board of Water Commissioners would approve the \$75,000.00.

Jack asked of the \$170,000.00 approximately in surplus what is earmarked for any projects. Paul said that because of this past project we did last year usually by now $\frac{3}{4}$'s of it is earmarked. It is not etched in stone what it is earmarked for, but we can transfer money if need be. We like to earmark it if we can because if we don't technically because of the Acts of 1920 if those retained earnings are not earmarked it can reduce the rates. That is not good practice. Paul said nothing is earmarked right now because we had to use the funds to payoff this contractor, and we got reimbursed from the state and have those funds back. We have yet to earmark that so that is left, but we do have due in July, 2006 the first payment for that project which is approximately \$47,000.00. Technically, we have over \$170,000.00 available right now.

Fran asked how we would transfer the \$75,000.00. Paul said an article is being drawn up by the Town Administrator for the Town meeting, and Town Counsel might have some changes on it.

Jack said he would like all the details worked out before we spend the funds.

Paul said he had three-way conference call with Town Administrator and Dave McGowen, Department of Conservation and Recreation. Dave had no problem with putting in whatever verbiage had to be put into an agreement that all water rights would be vested in the Water Department and whatever verbiage had to be put in that would assure that no development could ever be done on this piece of property.

Paul said that hopefully that someone from Department of Conservation and Recreation will be at the Town meeting.

Jack said that if there is a mechanism from legal counsel that says they are in favor of it.

Paul would recommend to the Board to approve whatever amount they want contingent upon these issues.

Fran said he has issues also. Fran would like to have rights to put future well.

Jack said that we would like to have final approval on the final document, but if there is something in the language that we cannot live with that we can rescind our vote.

Paul said he has tried to get well sites on state property before, and if they let you test on it they put you through so much red tape.

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DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to transfer \$75,000.00 from Enterprise Fund to contribute with the Town of Townsend and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the purchase of land off of Vinton Pond Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean R. Dinon, clerk