

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSINERS' MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2007  
5:30 P.M.

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

GUEST PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse, Kenya Thomas, David Chenelle, Greg Barnes, Jean Dinon, Michael MacEachern, James Blanchard and Brenda Boudreau-clerk.

Fran opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Warrants previously signed: \$588.53, \$82.47, \$1,279.25, \$10,054.30, \$6,758.32, \$4,000.00 and \$7,200.54 totaled \$29,963.41.

Previously signed payroll warrants: \$3,722.44, \$3,749.79, \$3,787.50 and \$3,787.50 totaled \$15,047.23.

DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of December 12, 2006.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Paul discussed/reviewed the possibility of a block system rate increase. This method would provide the water takers who have a habit of conserving water a smaller increase in their water bill and water takers who do not conserve and use more water than necessary would have to pay more per cubic foot. Paul also stated that the DEP will be mandating water conservation regulations. The extra revenue would also help pay for the new well at Harbor Trace and maintaining and upgrading the water system. The Board would like Paul to put together some numbers for the next meeting.
2. Brenda presented the Board with the Bureau of accounts report and explained the breakdown of accounts within the report. All documentation was furnished by Kim Fales, Town Accountant.
3. The FY08 Budget was discussed at length by the Board, Paul, David Chenelle and Greg Barnes. The Board felt that they should meet with David and Greg and discuss the budget due to a challenging fiscal year. Paul presented two budgets one with and one without a pay raise. Paul stated that if we were to submit a level funded budget that they should at least include the .50 pay raise to Jim, if he passes his exam. That was agreed upon at the time he was hired. David and Greg both feel that the town may not be receptive to another raise with the way property taxes etc. have risen and because of the other non contractual employees being level funded. However, David also stated that we have every right to submit the budget with the wage increase if we feel that it wouldn't raise too much opposition from the voters. Paul stated that he feels badly for the town employees that need to be level funded but feels that this rule

should not apply to the Water Department for the reason that increases are taken from water receipts and not taxes.

The issue of hydrant fee was also discussed Paul feels as though the town took it upon themselves to stop paying without any communication. Greg thought that we should be paying for administrative fees for accounting purposes and for the work done by the Treasurer's office. David suggested that the two issues could cancel each other out. Greg also brought up the issue of the overdue police detail bill. Greg would like to see us pay the remainder of the police detail bill which is approximately \$1,800.00. The board will consider it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Paul submitted to the board the change order for design and construction services from Earth Tech for the Harbor Trace. The change order is due to the increase in the cost of the well because of the delay of receiving the permit from DEP, the increase is approximately \$3,000.00. The Board wants a description/explanation as to why there is an increase to the engineering costs. Paul called Doug DeNatale on his cell phone so the Board could ask him some questions. The Board requested a written explanation from Doug.
2. Vote to transfer funds to pay additional costs to Earth Tech as indicated in the change order. It was tabled.
3. Paul presented the board with a quote for a radio survey. He arrived the Friday prior to Christmas, and Paul had Jim show him around to the sites to calculate the latitude and longitude in his GPS. With the Scada system we're looking at a cost of \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00. Jack suggested that we put these things in writing so that when the voters question the rate increase we can justify it with the upgrades.
4. Paul reported to the board that he had spoken with Bert about installing level transmitters at the KOH tanks. The cost incurred would be about \$4,000.00. Fran would like to see if we could get them on a trial basis to see if they are accurate.
5. Brenda reported on the December appropriation balance report.
6. Brenda reported the December accounts receivable report.

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The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Boudreau-clerk