

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2007
5:30 P.M.

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

GUEST PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse and Brenda Boudreau-clerk.

Fran opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Warrants waiting for Boards signature: \$952.20.

Previously signed warrants: \$2,446.53, \$7,935.88, \$999.58, \$1,238.80, \$6,950.00 and \$16,869.88 totaled \$36,440.67.

Previously signed payroll warrants: \$3,759.73, \$3,712.50, \$3,837.82 and \$3,582.82 totaled \$14,892.87.

DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of September 11, 2007.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Paul reported on the progress of the Harbor Trace well. Paul reported that the station does run and is operational. DEP was present and would not approve the station start up because we simulated a high PH. The pump did shut off when the PH level became to high but should not have come back on until a worker physically came to the station and checked it out before manually turning it back on. However, the pumps turned on automatically instead. Paul just needs to have some tweaking done with the software.
2. Paul discussed the issue of overdue payment for the contractor who performed the cleaning and inspection services of the storage tanks. Fran had issues that a contract was signed without the Boards knowledge and feels there should be some kind of threshold. Paul takes responsibility for the mistake and assures it will not happen again. Paul explained that it had been done differently in the past and was not fully aware at the time to the changes in the accounts. He was under the impression that the money could simply be transferred and that it need not go to bid due to their area of expertise. Paul met with Kim and Greg to try and work out the matter before the meeting. Fran questioned Paul how many years between cleanings on the storage tanks, and Paul stated every two years. Niles suggested planned program maintenance in writing to avoid future financial needs. Fran received a call from Kim with her concerns, and Fran feels we have been reacting after the fact and need to work more closely with her. Jack wants to invite Kim in writing to the next meeting to discuss certain guidelines to avoid future problems.

DECISION: The Board voted unanimously to transfer \$4,950.00 from acct #5990-Emergency Reserve Fund to acct# 5020-Storage Tank Maintenance pending the conditional approval of Kim Fales and the Board of Selectmen.

3. Paul discussed the request by Gary Lorden to start the main installation on Turnpike and Barker Hill Road for the Turnpike Village Project. Powell's contacted us to begin work. Paul requested a preconstruction meeting to discuss who is to pay for police detail etc.
4. Brenda requested that the sum of \$5,000.00 be transferred from account #5990-Emergency Reserve Fund to account #5020-Storage Tank Maintenance.
5. Paul discussed with the Board the legal opinion of Kopelman & Paige referencing the intermunicipal agreement and how it is their legal opinion that because it was never voted on at town meeting the agreement is non binding. Paul feels that because we had to pay over \$24,000 in legal expenses to date that the town should have to pay some of the bill that was generated because it benefits the town as a whole. Also discussed was the fact that the hydrant maintenance has not yet been resolved with the town. Fran explained that the hydrant fees whether or not it is performed by the Fire Department, Highway or Water department is an expense to someone. Jack suggested sending a letter to Kim and inviting her to a meeting to explain these questions and ask how come the Water Department personal has no knowledge as to the balances in their account and how the money is invested.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Paul reviewed the articles to be submitted for November's special town meeting. They still needed a little work according to Greg and would be available for review at the next meeting.
2. Paul presented the Board with a letter received from Lunenburg Water District requesting the possibility of purchasing water from one of our sources. The Board agreed that we should send a letter expressing interest and request a proposal.
3. Brenda discussed the procedure to how the Board would like to approve the warrants in the future. Kim suggested meeting twice a month and have shorter meetings. The Board wants to pay them once a month, and they would like them available for review at 5:00 p.m. with post-it notes for issues to discuss.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Boudreau-clerk