

SPECIAL WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 22, 2002

6:30 P.M.

Meeting held for the purpose of discussion on the formation of a district.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David A. Dunbar, Samuel Briguglio and Francis McNamara.

GUESTS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Rafuse, Attorney Jacob Diemert and Brenda Boudreau, Clerk.

Chairman Dunbar opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

There was a lengthy discussion on several changes made to the District Charter. Paul noted that section 19 was now entirely different and questioned paragraph 1 which referenced Witches Brook Water Company and how to tie into the sub-division plans in order to exclude them from the voting process. Jacob Diemert responded by saying that he needed assistance from the Planning Board office to accurately describe the exclusions in the final voting guidelines and expressed concerns that the Planning Board office has not yet returned several phone calls that were placed to their office on more than one occasion. Paul will call Kathy Araujo personally to try and speed up the process. Also, defined in the new draft is that all Water Commissioners currently in office would continue to serve out their terms of office.

Attorney Diemert feels that it is time to move forward with the Water District Plans and suggested an informal meeting with the Selectmen, Town Counsel and State Representatives to discuss our District plans before scheduling a town meeting.

Sam Briguglio noted that Section B language was changed to include the phrase "by taking of Eminent Domain" or "Friendly Taking". Also noted was sub-section J which refers to Rules and Regulations of Hydrant Maintenance and Fee Schedules.

There was a discussion as to what the proper response would be when asked why we want to become a District, and how the Community would respond to this at the town meeting. Attorney Diemert reported that reasons for most Water Departments becoming a District are as follows:

1. Lending and borrowing abilities.
2. Independence from the town and to become a separate legal entity; isolated from town politics for something as essential as providing water to the community.
3. Critical to maintain a high standard of water quality without being caught up in a labor dispute or monies being diverted to other non-water projects.

Paul questioned the proper sequence after the Legislator passes the vote in favor of the District. The Water Department can petition the town to call a special District meeting of all votes of the District for the purpose of accepting the document, then assets would be transferred by Selectmen fashioned like a warrant. Afterwards we would schedule Annual District meetings at which time voting would be held in the morning prior to the meeting.

Discussion of the possibility of appointing Jean or Brenda for the Water District Treasurer and that extra hours may be required and bonding would become necessary.

Commissioners read and approved the minutes of the July 30, 2002 special meeting.

Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40.

Next meeting unscheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda A. Boudreau
Clerk