

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on January 4, 2011

Present: Chairman Donald Bates, Vice Chairman Allin Thompson, Clerk Danette Gonsalves, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Secretary Alexandra Bilek, Senior Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh

Chairman Donald Bates called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meeting held on December 7, 2010, were approved with a motion by Vice Chairman Thompson and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the payment plan request from Theresa Walsh of 7 Walden Way. She is requesting her second payment plan due to financial hardship. Senior Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh said the customer was late in paying her last payment plan. She also said she counseled Ms. Walsh on water conservation. Ms. Marsh said the customer has an extensive property with irrigation and a swimming pool, and upon review of water consumption has made no apparent effort to curtail water usage. Clerk Gonsalves moved to grant a second payment plan that would be paid in two installments, with a second by Vice Chairman Thompson; 3-0-0. The Board asked that a letter accompany the payment plan stating that the customer must make an effort to conserve water if unable to pay for it. They also asked that it state the customer is not eligible for another payment plan for two years.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Tom Farrow of 26 Archibald Circle in regard to a late fee applied due to his mail not being forwarded. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to approve the abatement request with a second by Vice Chairman Thompson; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Farrow addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Joan Fitzgerald of 43 Chase Street in regard to a late fee applied because she thought she had paid online. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to approve the abatement request with a second by Vice Chairman Thompson; 2-1-0. A letter will be sent to Ms. Fitzgerald addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from the Harwich Water Department in regard to various seasonal accounts that never used the service. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to approve the abatement requests with a second by Vice Chairman Thompson; 3-0-0.

Superintendent Wiegand said he thought the Selectmen's meeting went well. He thought it was great that the Board was there in full representation. He said the Board presented good information. Vice Chairman Thompson said he was happy that the Assessing Department was there so he could discuss having customers change their addresses with the Water Department as well as the Tax Collector.

Mr. Wiegand said the next meeting for the Treatment Plant will be Friday, January 14, 2011 at the site. He said all Board members are welcome. Mr. Wiegand said there will be a progress report, and discussion on any problems or change orders. To date he said the only change order was for the increase in the width of the trench from 6 inches to 12 inches which added an additional cost of \$20,000. Mr. Wiegand said the eastern wall is up and the western wall will go up next week. After the

completion of that work, they will do the back portion. He said the slab should be done the second week in February which will give it time to cure. Mr. Wiegand said the building should start going up at the end of March, and once that is done equipment can be moved in. He said the Treatment Plant should be online in October 2011.

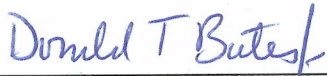
Mr. Wiegand said the Department is still in negotiations with the Laborer's Union. He said he feels it is a moot point as the next contract is coming up. Mr. Wiegand said he does not see the Town giving any raises this year. He said they might have to work without a contract. Mr. Wiegand said the money spent in overtime each week is between \$1,000.00 and \$2,500.00. He suggested looking into changing the work schedule to have someone working on the weekends. He said having one person from treatment and distribution work Tuesday through Saturday, and another work Sunday through Thursday could alleviate overtime spending. He said they would still have someone on call in the evenings. Mr. Wiegand said the majority of the crew would remain working Monday through Friday and would do all of the construction. He said the weekend distribution staff would do curb stop repairs and turn-on/off's, the weekend treatment staff would do their everyday work. Mr. Wiegand said he does not need union approval to change the work schedule. Vice Chairman Thompson asked Mr. Wiegand to draft a proposal.

Mr. Wiegand said he received a letter from DEP increasing the number of samples the Town is required to take. He said this is not a problem because the Department already takes more samples than mandated. Mr. Wiegand said the Water Superintendents throughout Cape Cod need to meet with the new Director of the DEP to discuss the 65 proposed gallons of water per day per capita law. He said they have already met with DEP and State Representative Sarah Peake. Mr. Wiegand said if this is still an issue in the spring, the Department might want to send letters with the bills. He said the public needs to be notified of this proposed change in water regulation, and how it will impact them. Mr. Wiegand said the DEP doesn't care if Departments have to raise rates to cover lost revenue due to less consumption.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 and Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. with a motion by Chairman Bates and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

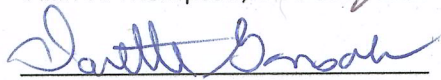
Respectfully submitted,



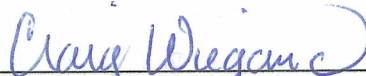
Donald T. Bates, Chairman



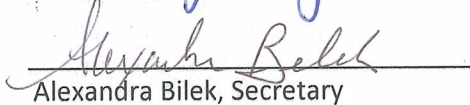
Allin P. Thompson, Vice Chairman



Danette Gonsalves, Clerk



Craig Wiegand, Superintendent



Alexandra Bilek, Secretary