

# Harwich Water Department

## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on November 24, 2009

Present: Chairman Donald Bates, Vice Chairman George Cavanaugh, Clerk Danette Gonsalves, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Secretary Alexandra Nidositko.

Clerk Danette Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meeting held on November 10, 2009 were approved with a motion by Vice Chair Cavanaugh and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from James Demetras of 5 Elmwood Road in regard to late fees assessed due to applicant's oversight. Mr. Demetras was present at the meeting argued that it was unjust to levy late fees that were more than double the initial bill. Upon review and discussion, Vice Chair Cavanaugh moved to deny the abatement request with a second by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Demetras addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Michael Wang of 2 Herring Run in regard to a late fee assessed due to the mail arriving late. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to abate the late fee from the account with a second by Vice Chair Cavanaugh; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Wang addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Elizabeth Clark of 15 Sweetfern Lane in regard to a late fee assessed due to problems with her late mother's estate. Upon review and discussion, Chairman Bates moved to deny the abatement request with a second by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Ms. Clark addressing the Board's decision.

Superintendent Wiegand informed the Board of a communiqué he received from the Town Administrator last week. It discussed a possible joint venture between the Towns of Harwich and Chatham to purchase the Fratus property. Chatham would like to drill some exploratory wells for future water withdrawal. Mr. Wiegand stated that he cannot support this project, as he is not in favor of another town withdrawing water from within the boundaries of Harwich proper. Mr. Wiegand told the Town Administrator that he would present it to the Board. Upon discussion it was decided that the Board should meet with Town Administrator, which Mr. Wiegand will schedule for a Monday evening.

Mr. Wiegand also informed the Board that Wells 1, 2, 3 & 4 have been scheduled to have the electrical services upgraded. It will cost approximately \$6,000 per service. Due to a budget shortfall, this program will be on hold until he reviews the revenues. Mr. Wiegand also stated that once the electrical service is upgraded, he will be looking into purchasing a new 100kw generator. This will cost approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Wiegand informed the Board that he had the Route 39 Storage Tank, Lothrop Storage Tank, and the Pleasant Lake Tank inspected. He has an article for the renovation of the Route 39 Storage Tank. The article will be for \$1,600,000, which will include structural repairs, interior painting, and exterior painting. He explained that the tank was last painted in 1998, and that it is more cost efficient to make

repairs rather than replace it with a new hydrotank that would cost \$5,000,000. He is looking to do this project this summer.

Mr. Wiegand reported that the Department is looking into installing 5,500 feet of 16" Ductile Iron pipe and 2,000 feet of 10" Ductile Iron pipe along the bike trail. He stated that he will send out an RFP for labor only this summer. The Department will furnish all materials. He hopes to begin this project in the fall.

Mr. Wiegand recommended establishing new water rates. The increase would help cover the costs of the Route 39 Storage Tank and the new Greensand Treatment Plant. Once the rate increases are completed, he will bring them to the Board for approval, and then hold a public hearing.

Mr. Wiegand apprised the Board of his meeting with Environmental Partners Group regarding the Bruce Cahoon Water Treatment Plant. They reviewed the 90% drawings and this strategy. This project will be on the Town Meeting agenda for \$4,000,000. Once we get to the 100% stage he will have the EPG in to update the Board.

Mr. Wiegand announced that Kimberly McCrossin, the candidate that he hired for the position of Principal Clerk, would be unable to fill the position. He introduced Alexandra Nidositko, as the new Principal Clerk. He also reported the departure of William Pizzano, and the hiring of his replacement Jeremy Sinclair.

Wellesley Marsh informed the Board that she was in the process of handing over the lien list. She stated that she was going to send out shut off notices to those on the lien list. If bills are not paid by December 15, 2009, they will be lienied. In the past this approach has a 99% return rate. At this time, we have around 200 accounts this affects, and approximately \$68,000 outstanding.

The Board will meet again on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, Tuesday, December 22, 2009 and January 5, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m. with a motion by Vice Chair Cavanaugh and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donald T. Bates, Chairman

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Craig Wiegand, Superintendent

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George Cavanaugh, Vice Chairman

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Alexandra Nidositko, Secretary

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Danette Gonsalves, Clerk