

# Harwich Water Department

## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on February 23, 2010

Present: Chairman Donald Bates, Vice Chairman Allin Thompson, Clerk Danette Gonsalves, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Secretary Alexandra Nidositko, Comptroller Sandra Cummings

Chairman Donald Bates called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meetings held on February 9, 2010, February 11, 2010 and February 18, 2010 were approved with a motion by Vice Chairman Thompson and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Anthony Tullio of 57 Partidrige Lane in regard to a late fee assessed due to his Uncle's illness. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement request with a second by Chairman Bates; 2-1-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Tullio addressing the Board's decision.

Superintendent Wiegand discussed WARN, mutual aid for the state. He informed the Board that the Department is now registered and eligible for emergency funding if needed.

Mr. Wiegand reminded the Board of the Selectmen's meeting the following Monday where the Department's budget will be presented and televised live. He said that he and Comptroller Sandra Cummings have been watching the previous meetings to get a feel for the questions that are being asked. Mr. Wiegand said the Selectmen have been going through the budgets line item by line item. Mr. Wiegand said he wants to make sure that everyone is prepared for the meeting.

Mr. Wiegand said at the last Selectmen's meeting there was a discussion between the Selectmen and the Town's people regarding the proposed wind turbines. He said that people who live in the area are not convinced that enough studies have been conducted. Mr. Wiegand said there is a minimum of 1400 feet to the closest residence. He said that studies show no impact to property values, and minimal noise impact. The residents raised the issue of the flicker from the blades of the turbines even though studies have found that very few homes would see it. Mr. Wiegand said while having the wind turbines are well intentioned, no one wants them in their backyard.

Ms. Cummings said she is waiting to get a copy of the budget report that will be submitted for the Selectmen's meeting from Town Accountant David Ryan. She said when she receives it she will make copies and distribute it to the Board. Ms. Cummings also noted that the Selectmen have found a least one item in all budgets that they comment on. Mr. Wiegand said that they might question the 4% increase from 2009 to 2011 instead of level funding like the rest of the Town. He said it would almost be easier to level fund and then withdraw from the reserve fund. Mr. Wiegand said that due to the School Department's budget the Town is considering a freeze on hiring, step increases and longevity bonuses. He said it would affect all Town employees, but all of the Unions would have to be in agreement.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 and March 23, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m. with a motion by Chairman Bates 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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Allin P. Thompson, Vice Chairman

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Alexandra Nidositko, Secretary

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Danette Gonsalves, Clerk