

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on April 6, 2010

Present: Chairman Donald Bates, Vice Chairman Allin Thompson, Clerk Danette Gonsalves, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Secretary Alexandra Nidositko, 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 March 23, 2010 were approved with a motion by Clerk Gonsalves and seconded by Vice Chairman Thompson; 3-0-0.

Mr. Rick Toma of 63 West Tupelo Road was present at the meeting with questions about the proposed wind turbines. Mr. Toma asked if the Department had done any independent research to see how this will affect the well field it will sit on top of. Superintendent Wiegand said that we had conducted studies, but the results are not back yet. He said that one suggestion has been made to use mineral oil rather than petroleum based. He said he is waiting to find out if there is a non-toxic based oil. Mr. Wiegand said he also needs to know how much oil will be used and what the impact would be if the turbine was to fall over. Mr. Wiegand also said that it is not the first time that a turbine has been placed on a well field. Mr. Wiegand said there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. He said it is still early in the planning stage. He said that there are several questions that will need to be addressed by DEP and the EPA. Mr. Wiegand said he was not even sure if the Article will pass at Town Meeting. He said it would be least 4 to 5 years before it even begins. Mr. Wiegand said the security of the well head is paramount above all. Mr. Toma said there is a Wind Turbine meeting on April 17th at 9:30 a.m. He thanked the Board for taking time to discuss this with him.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Semyon Ocheretyanny of 7 Cod Lane in regard to a late fee assessed due to an accounting department error. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to abate the late fee from the account with a second by Vice Chairman Thompson; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Ocheretyanny addressing the Board's decision.

Mr. Wiegand provided the Board with an update on the Water Main project. He said that the crews had already made it out to Station 4, and would be patching up the parking lot. He said there was a mishap on the first day with a machine leaking diesel fuel. He said he called Licensed Environmental Specialists who came and performed a survey of the area affected. LPS reported to DEP that no cleanup was required as the spill was minimal. Mr. Wiegand said the crew pumped out the puddles, spread sand and swept it up. He said the lab results came back negative.

Mr. Wiegand informed the Board that he would be advertising in the Oracle that the Bike Trail from Thompson's Field to Depot Road would be closed until Memorial Day weekend. He said after that the crews should just be working in the shoulder of the road.

Mr. Wiegand said once the water main is in then they would grade the land and build filter beds and 3 catch basins. He said he needs to ask Town Counsel if we can use our Electrician and 2 seasonal Electricians which would save the Department \$100,000. He said we might still have to pay prevailing wage. Mr. Wiegand said that by using our own Electrician and doing our own excavating we could save between \$275,000 and \$300,000 as we are doing all of our own work except within 50 feet of the project.

The Board read the correspondence from Charles Rader of the Chatham Water Advisory Board. He was inquiring as to how the Department handles customer's high consumption concerns. A letter was drafted back to him.

Mr. Wiegand reminded the Board of the Presentation of the Assets meeting on Thursday, April 8th at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

Mr. Wiegand informed the Board that last week the office experienced a plethora of dirty water complaints. He said that when we cut the line at the Department it changed the flow of water. He said it took about 3 days to get it all cleaned up. He said initially a Voice Broadcast message was sent out to the homes that were anticipated to be impacted. Mr. Wiegand said that after all the calls started flooding in he had another Voice Broadcast sent to the whole Town.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and May 6, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald T. Bates, Chairman

Craig Wiegand, Superintendent

Allin P. Thompson, Vice Chairman

Alexandra Nidositko, Secretary

Danette Gonsalves, Clerk