

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on December 22, 2009

Present: Chairman Donald Bates, Vice Chairman George Cavanaugh, Clerk Danette Gonsalves, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Secretary Alexandra Nidositko, 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 9, 2009 were approved with a motion by Vice Chair Cavanaugh and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the abatement request for water usage charges from Lester Green of 7 Clifford Road, in regard to a late fee assessed due to a change of mailing address. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement request with a second by Vice Chair Cavanaugh; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Green addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the abatement request for water usage charges from Lynda V. Allen-wan-N'Tani of 367 Queen Anne Road, in regard to charges related to excessive water used due to a pipe burst. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement request with a second by Vice Chair Cavanaugh; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Ms. Allen-wan-N'Tani addressing the Board's decision.

The Board reviewed the correspondence from G.M. Schick of 35 Pleasant Street regarding her Appeal to the State Tax Board. Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh reviewed the case history. Superintendent Wiegand reminded the Board of the lack of support the Water Department has received in the past from the Appellate Board. He suggested contacting her, and offering to split the bill. This was approved with a motion by Vice Chair Cavanaugh and seconded by Vice Chairman Cavanaugh; 3-0-0.

Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh presented a revised Payment Plan Policy. She suggested limiting the number of people who are eligible for a payment plan. For those customers who are seeking a payment plan for the second time, it was proposed that they present their hardship before the Board, and they would vote on it. The Board asked Wellesley to draft a formal policy and present it at the next meeting.

Mr. Wiegand informed the Board that to date he had received three applications for the vacant Water Commissioner seat. He mentioned that the advertisement did not include a closing date. He is running another ad with a closing date of January 5, 2010.

Mr. Wiegand discussed his meeting with the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) in regard to the installation of the iron ductile pipe on the bike trail. He met with the Conservation Committee and the Building Department and made an informal presentation to the Planning Committee. The project received the green light. He would like to begin work in March or April.

Mr. Wiegand reported that the budget had been submitted. He raised the issue of the SRF Funding, and what they would do if it was not awarded. Board felt that we should go out for a conventional loan with a low interest rate. Mr. Wiegand said he should know the outcome by mid-January.

Mr. Wiegand told the Board that there is still contention with the Town regarding the upgrade of the tanks. It was discussed that raising the rates would cover all of the costs. Mr. Wiegand also said that he submitted the Articles for the treatment plant, the Route 39 Tank and the new vehicles. He said if we did have to borrow money it would be about five million dollars.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, January 19, 2010 and February 2, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. with a motion by Vice Chair Cavanaugh and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald T. Bates, Chairman

Craig Wiegand, Superintendent

George Cavanaugh, Vice Chairman

Alexandra Nidositko, Secretary

Danette Gonsalves, Clerk