

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on February 9, 2010

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

Chairman Donald Bates called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meeting held on January 26, 2010 were approved with a motion by Clerk Gonsalves and seconded by Chairman Bates; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from the Harwich Water Department for 5 Wisdom Way due to internal error. Upon review and discussion, Clerk Gonsalves moved to abate the late fee from the account with a second by Chairman Bates; 3-0-0.

Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh presented an Amendment to the Payment Plan Policy. Clerk Gonsalves inquired as to the frequency of the payments. Ms. Marsh stated that it is usually once a month, but it really depends on the circumstances. She said she tries to get the bill paid before the next billing cycle. Mr. Thompson asked what criteria are used to determine hardship. Ms. Marsh said it goes by a case by case basis as everyone is different. Clerk Gonsalves moved to accept the amendment with a second by Mr. Thompson; 3-0-0.

Superintendent Wiegand addressed the letter from G.M. Schick of 35 Pleasant Street, and said that Ms. Marsh sent a letter in response. He is hoping to hear back from Ms. Schick before the hearing. Mr. Wiegand also went over the upcoming meetings that the Board members are going to need to attend. Mr. Wiegand briefly discussed the meeting he had with representatives from Asset Management. He said he might set up a meeting with them for the Board in July.

Mr. Wiegand presented more information about the proposed rate increase. He included the rates for the other towns on the Cape. He said that most towns maintain around the same fee schedule. Rates from highest to lowest: Brewster, Chatham, Orleans, Mashpee, Harwich and Dennis. He said that while Dennis's rates seem lower they are levied betterment taxes. Mr. Wiegand stated that a betterment tax could be an alternative to a rate increase. The Board was interested in learning more about the betterment tax. Mr. Wiegand said he would put a packet together by the end of the week. He suggested the possibility of a special meeting next week to vote on this.

Mr. Thompson, as a new member of the Board, inquired about procedures. He said he would like to send a letter to the Town Clerk, for the Ethics Committee. He does not want there to be a conflict of interest with his employment with Robert B. Our. He said he wants to insulate himself from the company and the company from him.

Chairman Bates stated that he received a call from Ruth Gregg, the owner of the Bishop's Terrace at 108 Route 28. She was complaining to him about the adverse treatment she was receiving from the Department. Mr. Wiegand explained that she is noncompliant with the seasonal procedures. He has explained them over and over again to her and she does not want to follow them. He said he is not making any exceptions for her, and that we would be installing a meter pit on town land so the technicians do not have to enter her establishment. She has expressed her displeasure with his decision.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. with a motion by Chairman Bates and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald T. Bates, Chairman

Craig Wiegand, Superintendent

Allin P. Thompson, Vice Chairman

Alexandra Nidositko, Secretary

Danette Gonsalves, Clerk