

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on March 23, 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 8:17 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meeting held on March 9, 2010 were approved with a motion by Clerk Gonsalves and seconded by Chairman Bates; 3-0-0.

The Board read the letter from Anthony Tullio asking that the Board reconsider his abatement request for 57 Partridge Lane. Secretary Nidositko replied to him in detail about his denial. Vice Chairman Thompson said he noticed a flier in his NSTAR bill geared toward seniors. Superintendent Wiegand explained that the bills are pressure sealed, thus nothing can be stuffed in them. Vice Chairman Thompson would like to implement something to help the seniors in the community.

Vice Chairman Thompson was advised of the need to take the Ethics Exam. He said that he already had and it was on file with the Town. Chairman Bates said he had yet to take the exam. He said he would take it before he left this morning.

Superintendent Wiegand informed the Board that he received an email from the Town Administrator requesting that we relocate the hydrant at the beach on Saquatucket Harbor and absorb the costs. Mr. Wiegand said a private citizen would like to put in 4 parking spaces. Mr. Wiegand does not feel the Department should be responsible for this. He responded to the Town Administrator, inquiring who the private citizen is and why aren't they paying for it. To date he has not received a response. The Board feels the Department should let it go for now, and if he receives another inquiry to bring it before the Board.

Mr. Wiegand raised the issue of charging interest on water service payment plans. He said the payment plan started for people who were in dire need of a new water service, but were truly unable to pay for all of it up front. He said there is no penalty for paying when it is due. Mr. Wiegand would like to charge 2-3% interest because he wants rate payers to know they aren't subsidizing other water services. He said there would be a flat percentage of the bill that would be added into the payment. Vice Chairman Thompson moved to accept the surcharge of 3% on water service payment plans with a second by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

Vice Chairman Thompson asked for a brief history of the firing range and water related problems. Mr. Wiegand said that it is 1200 feet north of Pumping Stations 5, 6, and 7. It has been in existence since 1998, and is open to the public and used by the Harwich and Chatham Police Departments as well as the Coast Guard. After a high level of lead was found in the ground at the Wellfleet firing range, samples were taken from the range in North Harwich. High levels of lead were found and reported to the DEP. They found that it was operational and not closed. DEP required the range to do a cleanup. Subsequent testing has found no traces of lead.

Mr. Wiegand gave an update on the water main project. He said it would be starting Monday in the parking lot here and going northeast. He hoped to be at the bike trail by the following week. He said the crews will try to stay in the shoulder of the road to avoid the bike trail. He said that the Department will run an ad in the paper announcing this portion of the bike trail will be closed until Memorial Day. He reminded the Board about the

Public Address on April 8th and Town Meeting on May 3rd. He said once we get funding for the Treatment Plant, he hopes to begin work by September or October. Mr. Wiegand told the Board about the \$35,000 grant from the DEP for leak detection. He said he was submitting the final documents next week.

Vice Chairman Thompson addressed Mr. Wiegand about an estimate he requested be put together for the Old South Church on Chatham Road which Mr. Thompson is involved with. He told Mr. Wiegand he thought the estimate was rather high, and asked if we could look at it again, maybe just charge at cost. He said it is a Town building and they are getting hammered by contractors. Mr. Wiegand said he would look into it.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and April 20, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m. with a motion by Vice Chairman Thompson 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