

Harwich Water Department

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting on May 19, 2010

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

Chairman Donald Bates called the meeting to order at 8:24 a.m.

The minutes for the previous meeting held on May 6, 2010 were approved with a motion by Vice Chairman Thompson and seconded by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

Mr. James Marceline of 283 Pleasant Lake Avenue was present for his appointment. Mr. Marceline said that he received an exorbitant bill and doesn't believe that much water was used. He thinks the meter is broken. His consumption record indicates that 91,000 gallons of water were used in the last six months. He said that his son, who resides at the property, is a minimal user as he and his girlfriend are not home all day. Superintendent Wiegand informed the Board that his meter had been replaced and sent out for testing. The Board told Mr. Marceline that they would contact him with the results.

The Board reviewed the annual abatement request from the Harwich Water Department accounts, Clerk Gonsalves moved to abate the charges from the accounts with a second by Chairman Bates; 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the letter from Mr. James Demetras of 5 Elwood Drive. Mr. Demetras was seeking more time to pay his late fees as he is in the process of appealing his abatement denial with the State. Mr. Wiegand told the Board that he only had thirty days to appeal his abatement denial, as it was from November of last year his only recourse is to go to the Appellate Board. Mr. Demetras also stated in his letter that the Department would not give him the contact information for the appeal. Mr. Wiegand informed the Board that Town Counsel advised the Department only include the Massachusetts General Law and nothing else. Mr. Wiegand will send Mr. Demetras a letter stating all of this.

Mr. Wiegand provided the Board with an update on the water main project. Mr. Wiegand said that it is complete up to T2 and they are finished with the bike trail portion. Mr. Wiegand said it was discovered that the gate valve in the parking lot of the Department was not open, in addition to this consumption tripled over the weekend creating a reverse flow of water, which produced brown water. Mr. Wiegand said that crews had flushed the system for the past two days to help clear up the water.

Vice Chairman Thompson confirmed that the bike trail was not cut as part of the water main project. Mr. Wiegand answered in the affirmative stating that the work was done on the side of the trail. Vice Chairman Thompson then asked if the Department would be credited for the paving portion of the contract. Mr. Wiegand again answered in the affirmative. Mr. Thompson said he saw several Water Department employees working on this project and asked why. Mr. Wiegand said he was being pressured by the Bike Trail Committee to restore the property, and that is what the Department employees were working on. Mr. Wiegand said the project was 80% complete. Mr. Wiegand said the paving has not been credited as of yet. He said he did a change order for it. Chris Our, of Robert B. Our Co., was present at the meeting and stated that if the bike trail was not going to be cut it should have been figured into the contract to be fair. Mr. Our said the contract stated it was in the mix, and that paving was lumped in with other things and not itemized. He said his bid would have been different without the paving portion. Mr. Wiegand said it could go either way, and was his decision to go off the trail. Mr. Wiegand said the Bike Trail Committee was putting pressure on him to do

things that were not in the contract. He said they wanted him to loam, seed, create a berm and provide netting which would have cost additional monies. He said if he knew about this earlier he would have included those requests in the contract. He said the Department only had a certain amount of money to complete the project. Mr. Wiegand said he did not plan to go off to the side of the bike trail because he was not sure there was enough cover because of the slope of the road. He said once the project had started the engineers decided it was alright to go off to the side of the trail.

The Board reviewed the abatement request from Ronald Eaton 682 Main Street in regard to the balance of new water service. Upon review and discussion, Vice Chairman Thompson moved to abate the new water service balance from the account with a second by Clerk Gonsalves; 3-0-0. A letter will be sent to Mr. Eaton addressing the Board's decision.

Mr. Wiegand said that the Town approved the new Treatment Facility at Town Meeting. He said the final design is done and the land is almost cleared. Mr. Wiegand said that the Department is going to do the lagoons and leveling in an effort to save money. Mr. Wiegand said the RFP should be done in the next couple of weeks and he hopes to have it out to bid by the end of July or the beginning of August.

Mr. Wiegand told the Board that Town Counsel is clarifying the issues with the Cell Tower contracts. He said we should have the contracts back by the end of next week.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 and June 22, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 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