

WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2000
7:30 P.M.

Meeting held at the Water Department office, 540 Main Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Moorehouse and David Dunbar. Samuel Briguglio, absent.

GUESTS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Rafuse, Carole Stone, Clerk, Arthur Dauphinais, Brenda and Ken Saucier, Chuck Hawkins, Dave Petlor and David Hicks.

Acting Chairman Moorehouse opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Minutes of the November 23, 1999 regular meeting and December 7, 1999 special meeting with the Board of Selectmen were read and approved by the two commissioners present. Warrants previously signed for \$8,818.20, \$9,128.69, \$7,056.00, \$3,960.09, \$257.50, \$3,178.95, \$4,193.12 and \$36,712.06 totaled \$73,304.61. Previously signed payroll warrants totaled \$15,881.62.

Commissioners read and noted the following correspondence:

- A. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated November 24, 1999 re: Forwarding name of contact person for millennium rollover weekend 1/1/2000 to her office.
- B. Faxed copy to Nashoba Publications dated December 3, 1999 re: Advertisement for Water Technician II.
- C. Memo from Maria Casey, Admin. Assistant dated December 7, 1999 re: Annual Water Department report for 1999 due by January 13, 2000.
- D. Copy of letter to Mr. & Mrs. Blackwell, 6 Shirley Road dated December 8, 1999 re: Appointment with Representative Robert Hargraves on December 13, 1999.
- E. Copy of letter from Superintendent Rafuse dated December 9, 1999 to the Board of Selectmen re: Data showing a tie-in with Witches Brook Water Co. not feasible.
- F. Memo from William May, Chief of Police dated December 13, 1999 re: Emergency Operation Plan Call List.
- G. Memo from Kathy Roszbach dated December 14, 1999 re: Limiting Expenses.
- H. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated December 15, 1999 re: Observed holidays for 2000.
- I. Copy of letter to Richard Choate, Town Accountant dated December 16, 1999 re: Abatement of \$60.00 –FY00 User Charge, L.Abreu, 450 Main Street.

- J. Copy of Mandatory referral-Site plan review for MJS Metals, 58 Turnpike Road dated December 18, 1999 signed by Supt. Rafuse and returned with No Comment.
- K. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated December 20, 1999 re: Special Town Meeting Warrant.
- L. Copy of letter from Superintendent Rafuse to the Board of Selectmen dated December 2, 1999 re: Mrs. Blackwell's refusal to have a gravel test well installed on their property.
- M. Copy of letter forwarded from the Selectmen's office from Robert Hicks, Witches Brook Water Co. dated December 27, 1999 re: Possibility of his company supplying the Blackwells with water.
- N. Copy of checklist for the millennium rollover weekend returned to Beverly Sleeper on January 1, 2000.
- O. Copy of memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator sent to Building Committee and Richard Hanks, Clerk of the Works dated December 29, 1999 re: Overdue water and electric bills for Memorial Hall.
- P. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated December 29, 1999 re: Personnel Board policy requiring employees to submit time slips and meeting to discuss policy on January 5, 2000.
- Q. Letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated December 31, 1999 re: Belated thanks for allowing various Boards, Committees and Commission use of our building during reconstruction of Memorial Hall.
- R. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated December 31, 1999 re: Shirley Road water Issues and notification of January 18, 2000 Selectmen's meeting with the So. Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club.
- S. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated January 6, 2000 re: Revised version of payroll forms/slips.
- T. Regulatory alert from AWWA received January 7, 2000 re: AWW Action Plan on Proposed Radon Rule.
- U. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated January 10, 2000 re: Updated in-house Directories and Phone Directory for Public.
- V. Letter from Superintendent Rafuse to the Board of Water Commissioners dated January 11, 2000 re: His disagreement with statements made by Commissioner Moorehouse at the December meeting with Selectmen regarding funding a test well for the Blackwells.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Members of the South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club were present to discuss a report in the paper of a meeting with Rep. Hargraves that mentioned eminent domain and why they weren't invited to the meeting to discuss the issue. Supt. Rafuse explained the meeting was held with the Shirley Road residents and that the potential well site located on Club property was not intended to be discussed. He stated he was upset with the report regarding the eminent domain statement and he would like to resume good faith negotiations regarding the well site. He stated the Commissioners broke off negotiations several years ago due to the high cost of land and not being able to come to an agreement with all parties. He stated he believed the Club was not in favor of a land swap. They disagreed saying we were supposed to get back to them with an overlay map and walk the perimeters to see exactly where the area was and then everything just stopped and they didn't hear from us again. Paul apologized and stated there was a problem with obtaining the overlay. In answer to their questions, he stated no camping would be allowed, but hunting and fishing would. He stated he is looking into possibly moving the well site completely onto Mr. Leahy's property, but the present site provides for such a high yield that we want to keep our options open. He offered to walk the area with them and Mr. Leahy after Mr. Leahy returns from Florida in February. If the area were to be developed we would replace the bridge and maintain the access road that we would need an easement for. Paul asked them that if they have any more concerns to deal with us and not the Selectmen as they don't have jurisdiction over the Water Department. They requested we mail them copies of past minutes that pertained to any discussion on the site.
2. David Hicks of Witches Brook Water Company was present to inform us they would be willing to supply the Blackwell's with water until we are able to. He stated they would not supply the infrastructure but would collect the revenue. Mr. Moorehouse feels we shouldn't foot the whole cost and that the town should help as it is not going to benefit us. Paul requested Witches Brook do a flow test on the end hydrant on Virgo Lane now and again in the summer. Paul stated we would appreciate if they (Witches Brook) deal directly with the Water Department and not the Board of Selectmen regarding water issues.
3. Supt. Rafuse reported he recently met with Mr. Leahy who was upset about the mention of eminent domain. Paul reassured him that is not the way the Water Department would go. He talked to him about retesting his property to find another well site to try to get the entire 400' radius on his land to avoid dealing with more than one party. Paul had Earth Tech engineer, Doug DiNatale look at the area and he will have Sullivan do more testing. He will walk the property with Mr. Leahy when he gets back from Florida.
4. Supt. Rafuse met with Earth Tech engineer, Bob Wyman to have him give us an estimate for the South Street upgrade and extension down Shirley Road. He will

also be asking the state to install a 12" main from the intersection and to include it in the South Street bridge plans. He will be working with Bob Wyman on costs.

5. Supt. Rafuse suggested we need to raise the rates for Capital Improvements and mentioned several loops we could complete. He would like to complete the Emery Road to South Harbor Road loop, the extension from Turnpike Road to the Rossbach bridge and from the bridge up Turnpike and Barker Hill Roads to Dudley Road, and the end of Old Turnpike Road to Mason Road. He feels as long as we will be getting a loan for the completion of the Main Street station upgrade and the Shirley Road extension he asked the commissioners to consider the looping projects. Mr. Dunbar suggested we go after new services instead of looping. Paul stated we would get a lot of new services with the looping and it benefits the system to loop where possible. Bob Wyman is working on an estimate for all projects.
Tabled discussion on raising rates for Capital Improvements until a full board is present.
6. Supt. Rafuse reported the new computer has been installed, old computer upgraded to Windows 98 and had them networked together. We also purchased a new printer.
7. Paul read a letter, to be included in the minutes, to the Board concerning statements Made at the December 7, 1999 Selectmen's meeting pertaining to the Shirley Road problem. He stated his disagreement with the statement made regarding the Water Department funding the installation of a test well for the Blackwells. Mr. Dunbar defended Mr. Moorehouse's statement and stated he had more of a problem with Paul's statement about the South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club well site. Mr. Moorehouse didn't feel Paul's letter was necessary. He felt we were put in a position to offer something to the Blackwells. Paul restated he just wanted it to go on record that he disagreed with it without prior discussion.
8. Supt. Rafuse suggested we send a letter to the Board of Selectmen to refer all parties with water related issues to the Board of Water Commissioners. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to send letter.
9. Commissioners reviewed applications for the Water Technician II position. Discussion held on the starting rate. Paul to interview several candidates. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to have Paul make the final decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Arthur Dauphinais present to complain about his high October bill. He questioned why we pulled out the old meter so quickly, because he wanted to have it checked for accuracy. Paul explained we are replacing all meters and we change them when we gain access to homes for whatever reason. He was told we still have the meter. He claimed he didn't have any leaks and asked to have the meter tested. He was Water informed there would be a charge if the meter tested o.k. and he stated he will pay the bill if that is the case. We arranged to have his new meter read to see how much he is using and go from there.

1. George Sullivan informed him of 100 acres of elevated land available for a possible future storage tank site on Barker Hill Road. He will have Bob Wyman look into the feasibility of it.
2. Discussion held on the need to improve radio communications. Paul described how we cannot always hear each other once you get past the center of town. When the town built the tower on Lunenburg Road space was allowed for the Water Department. He obtained 3 quotes as follows: Beltronics, Inc. for \$9,650.00, Twin Peaks for \$10,310.00 and Kenwood for \$10,405.00. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to accept the low quotes from Beltronics for \$9,650.00 for the installation of radio equipment.
3. Discussion on replacing the copier machine. Paul suggested we purchased a Canon refurbished copier at a state listed cost of \$1,620.00. It has the same warranty as a new one with no need to get quotes due to state listing. Mr. Dunbar believes there is a lot of competition out there and we may be able to do better and it might be cheaper to lease. He will look into it. Tabled until the next meeting.
4. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to send a letter to the Planning Board to invite them to our next meeting to discuss a regulation to require contractors putting in sub-divisions to tie in to town water wherever feasible.
5. Due to lack of another certified operator Paul stated he could take one weekend a month and asked if they would approve paying him for weekend call pay even though he is salaried. He said he looked into it and labor counsel stated it was permissible but would be up to the Board. Mr. Moorehouse stated we have two choices. Pay or give time and a half compensation. Mr. Dunbar disagreed and feels if he is salaried he should not be compensated. Tabled until a full board is present.
7. Discussion held on changing the meeting time to 7:00 in order to get more business taken care of before appointments. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to change the starting time for meetings from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m.
8. Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Next meeting to be held on February 8, 2000.

Respectfully yours,

Carole A. Stone
Clerk

