

WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
APRIL 11, 2000
7:00 P.M.

Meeting held at the Water Department office, 540 Main Street, West Townsend,

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse, Carole Stone, Clerk and Ronald Koivu.

Acting Chairman Moorehouse opened the meeting at 7:22. Minutes of the March 14, 2000 meeting were read and approved by the two commissioners present. Warrants previously signed for \$6,008.68, \$73.69, \$324.15, \$1,080.00, \$1,981.18 and \$4,503.56 totaled \$13,971.26. Previously signed payroll warrants totaled \$10,464.60.

Commissioners read and noted the following correspondence:

- A. Letter from June Riddle, Town Counsel dated February 16, 2000 re: Rental Agreement for Unitil/FG&E.
- B. Copy of letter to Board of Selectmen dated March 16, 2000 re: Request for Selectmen to put an article on the Town meeting warrant for installing larger main on Warren Road and extension to Shirley Road at estimated cost of \$505,000.00.
- C. Copy of letter to Michael Schwartz, Mass Highway dated March 16, 2000 re: Requesting to tie into 10" main with a 12" on Rte 119 when replacing the South Street Bridge.
- D. Letter to Supt. Rafuse from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated March 20, 2000 re: Letter sent to Rep. Hargraves regarding issues facing Townsend.
- E. Copies of letters sent to Rep. Hargraves and Senator Antonioni from Paul Rafuse dated March 20, 2000 re: Request for financial assistance for water main extension to Shirley Road with list of Water Department efforts to date.
- F. Memo from Beverly Sleeper, Town Admin. dated March 22, 2000 re: Special Town Meeting May 2, 2000.
- G. Copy of letter to Board of Health dated March 23, 2000 re: Request for their Board to acquire water samples for arsenic on Shirley and Warren Roads.
- H. Copy of letter to Doug Denatale, Earth Tech from Paul Rafuse dated March 24, 2000 re: Pumping and precipitation data requested from 11/1/1999 through 3/18/2000 for both stations.
- I. Copy of letter to Robert Wyman, Earth Tech from Paul Rafuse dated March 30, 2000 re: Requested copies of assessor's maps/disk of Town master plan update.

Water Commissioners' meeting
April 11, 2000
Page 2

- J. Memo from Properties Committee dated March 22, 2000 re: Annual Inventory List.
- K. Copy of letter to Properties Committee from Paul Rafuse dated April 10, 2000 re: Requested list of personal property.
- L. Copy of letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator to Thomas Waruzila, Mass Highway dated April 7, 2000 re: Request to expedite construction of the South Street bridge due to arsenic contaminated wells on Shirley Road.
- M. Copy of letter to Board of Selectmen from Patty McCloy dated April 10, 2000 re: Possible grant available from MRPC for Shirley Road water main extension.
- N. Letter from Senator Antonioni dated April 10, 2000 re: Possible funding options for water main extensions.
- O. Copy of letter to Board of Selectmen from Paul Rafuse dated April 11, 2000 re: Cost estimates for extension from Warren Road to Shirley Road and recent arsenic analysis results.
- P. Letter from Underwater Solutions, Inc. dated April 11, 2000 re: Proposal to high pressure wash Highland Street Storage Tank.
- Q. Letter from William Burgoyne, Board of Health dated April 11, 2000 re: Board's recommendations regarding Shirley Road wells.
- R. Copy of letter sent to South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club, Inc. dated April 12, 2000 re: Information they requested on the proposed well site located on their property.
- S. Noted two mandatory referrals without comment and one legal notice from The Planning and Zoning Boards.
- T. Copies of letter to Shirley and Warren Road residents from the Board of Health dated March 29, 2000 re: Testing their wells for arsenic.
- U. Noted one return from Old Meetinghouse Road regarding agreement to take water within one year of water main installation.
- V. Noted preliminary scores for the Drinking Water Awards Program received April 7, 2000.

Water Commissioners' meeting

April 11, 2000

Page 3

1. Paul reported on his meeting with the Planning Board regarding tie in regulations. They recommended the following: 1.) Update the Master Plan; 2.) Make decision on the distance. Paul recommended 2000 feet to the closest part of sub-division; 3.) Have a 2-5 year plan on proposed Water Department extensions to be filed with Town Clerk to be on record. Tabled a vote at this time.
2. Paul reported he talked with the Planning Board on the right-of-way to the proposed well site at Squannacook Meadows development. They asked not to push for it at this time until Mr. Craven finishes the project under a recent agreement with the Town.
3. Paul reported on his meeting with Town Counsel regarding Shirley Rd. She stated we have to have an article written to petition the legislature in order for the Town to pay for the Shirley Road extension. She will submit the article for the warrant.
4. Commissioners reviewed the extension cost estimate, flow tests and recent arsenic test results of the Shirley Road residents. Only one house is above the MCL at this time. Paul reported on a call from Senator Kerry's office. A Shirley Road resident called them to complain that they were not getting any satisfaction from the Water Department and he gave them the information on all we have been trying to do for them.
5. Paul suggested we extend the line on Emery Road approximately 220 feet to provide water to Mr. Paula, 44 Emery Road who was in last year and was told at the time we couldn't supply him because the main did not go in front of his property. Paul stated we could do the job ourselves at a cost of between \$3000.00 and \$4,000.00 dollars. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to extend the line on Emery Road to be done by Water Department personnel.
6. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting them in the future to refer all requests for water extensions to the Board of Water Commissioners.
7. Commissioners reviewed the rental agreement with Unitil/FG&E for radio communications equipment on the tower on Lunenburg Road. Tabled until a full board is present.
8. Paul reported he is working on the Old Meetinghouse Road bid advertisement and application for the main extension. He noted we only received one commitment to take water at this time, but have previously voted to extend the line. Commissioners reaffirmed our commitment to do the project feeling more of the residents will take water without committing to it at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commissioners present approved application #564 for a 1 inch service for Great American Trust, 10 Fox Run. Check received for \$800.00.
2. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to abate \$52.80 FY00 User Charge on Acct. #264, John McGarigle, 3 Linden Street due to a billing error.
3. Paul informed the commissioners that he, Mike and John will be taking the Drinking Water Operator examinations on Saturday April 15, 2000.
4. Discussion held on replacing the 1987 backhoe or dump truck in the near future. Paul gave information on replacement costs. Mr. Moorehouse recommended replacing the dump truck before the backhoe. Nothing decided and matter tabled at this time.
5. Paul requested the boot allowance be increased from \$125.00 to \$200.00 per year. After discussion, motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to increase the boot allowance to \$150.00.
6. Paul went over pipe specification changes he would like the commissioners to approve. He wants to bring them up to date. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to approve the changes as recommended by Supt. Rafuse.
7. Discussion held on need to power wash the outside of the concrete Highland Street storage tank. Paul received an estimate of \$4,750.00 from Underwater Solutions, Inc. Some discussion was held on Water Department personnel doing the work, but Paul recommended it be done by professionals due to concerns about using wrong pressure. He recommended we would need \$2,000.00 more added to the Storage Tank Maintenance Account from surplus. Motion made, seconded and voted to have Paul get necessary quotes to do the job.
8. After discussion, motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to transfer the following amounts from surplus:
 - \$30,000.00 - Main Street Station Upgrade
 - 25,000.00 - New Metering System
 - 2,000.00 - Storage Tank Maintenance
 - 75,000.00 - Water Main Extensions
9. Discussion held on the operating budget and surplus. Commissioners requested a copy of the monthly appropriations report.

Water Commissioners' meeting
April 11, 2000
Page 5

10. Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Next meeting to be held on May 9, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Stone
Clerk