



TOWNSEND WATER DEPARTMENT
540 Main Street West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474

Niles Busler, Chairman
Paul L. Rafuse,
Water Superintendent

Francis McNamara, Vice-Chairman

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WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2012 - 5:30P.M.

Water Department 540 Main Street, Meeting Room

I. PRELIMINARIES:

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 5:34P.M.

1.2 Roll call vote taken showed 3 members present: Chairman Niles Busler, (NB) Vice-Chairman Fran McNamara (FM), and Clerk Ron Dionne (RD).

1.3 There were no Chairman's additions or deletions.

NB moved to add 3.5.5 Update of the South Street Bridge. Paul Rafuse, Superintendent informed the Commissioners; the repairs have been completed. Mr. Rafuse stated the Contractor came right out and repaired the next day and put a repair clamp on the piping; located on the weld of the pipe.

1.4 RD moved to approve meeting minutes for November 13, 2012. FM seconded. Unanimous vote.

II. APOINTMENTS:

2.1 5:35 PM Discussion, RE: Water District vote at Town Meeting.

Attorney Mary Bassett met with the Commissioners to review the vote taken at the Special Town Meeting. Attorney Bassett relayed she felt one of the reasons the district failed was the Selectmen not supporting. The message at town meeting resounded with the residents being happy with the Water Department and could not wrap their heads around why the change. NB noticed many of the residents were not present; the voters that did come to town meeting seemed very conservative. NB stated he spoke with residents prior to town meeting and many felt it was very positive. Discussion included: short term borrowing, mis-information, confusion regarding tax issues, Selectmen opposition to forming a district, opt-out plan should not be contingent upon vote of the district, maybe just a vote of the Commissioners. Paul Rafuse, Superintendent stated he felt the opt-out should be a commissioners vote; FM believes it would need to be a district vote after the legislation is filed; maybe opt-out prior to vote and legislation is filed. FM asked what if we left tax out of enabling acts and then if a project does come up, could be a town district vote to allow taxation by the town meeting. The Commissioners voiced concern with support and authorization by the Selectmen to hire Attorney Bassett and then to buck the entire process,

seemed very unprofessional. Other discussion included: calling a special town meeting, informing citizens early and often, not enough information out to the residents, and the need to have 200 signatures to call a special town meeting, disputing town counsels opinion that sending out information is a conflict. Attorney Bassett suggested continuing to educate residents on the benefits of the district. Attorney Bassett suggested since it was at a public meeting (town meeting) the district failed then asking residents why maybe a good idea. Gathering information as to why one voted for or against could help in any future endeavor.

2.2 6:00 PM Doug DeNatale, Senior Hydro-geologists, of AECOM, RE: Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI).

2.3 Mr. Denatale and Maura Callahan met with the Commissioners; Mr. Denatale is also a Water Commissioner from West Groton. Mr. Denatale informed the Commissioners he is on a committee in Boston for the purpose of the sustainable water management act. Mr. Denatale explained; the environmental folks have convinced the state that our water supply is in danger and stated the environmental science is being ignored; it has been ideology not science. DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) has placed water restrictions that are not necessary. Mr. Denatale stated we would like to perform a study to demonstrate that the Squannacook is not damaged and there is plenty of water available. The DEP may trim you back to baseline, not the perimeter, back to between 2000 and 2007. Currently Townsend is below 499 gallons per day. DEP could only permit us for 400k gallons a day. NB conjectured that in essence, if these regulations take place and water suppliers are gotten rid of and everyone switched to private wells, then how could you tell residents how much water they can use. It's a one size fits all answer to the problems experienced by the systems along the Ipswich and Charles Rivers. Mr. Denatale stated West Groton has appropriated 15k to study this accuracy. The State will come after us to mitigate water usage if this stands. Mr. Denatale asked the Commissioners to join the study and informed them he was applying for a grant to help defray the cost. Mr. Denatale stated there is no discussion about the Quabin and Boston resources; they seem to only be coming after small water suppliers. There was no validation of data used and we are questioning the outcome of the study. This study will look at the stream flow; Nashua River Watershed may have studies that can be used and be sure the data is accurate. Another issue is the beavers being problematic with stream flow. The agencies have allowed a window for these studies and will allow a specific study site but will not pay for it. Mr. Rafuse to ask the Town's Accountant how to appropriate the money for the study and will report back to the Commissioners. Mr. Denatale relayed there has not been a water trend study for water suppliers in the Commonwealth. FM remarked his use levels in Lunenburg are at year 2000 levels and that conservation education has worked in the reduced amounts of water pumped. FM supported the study, not sure how we can appropriate the money. Total cost should not be more than 50k; however the scope of work has not been completed. The Commissioners reviewed the maps – see attached and explained the data as it has been outlined by the state and breakdown of categories for depletion of fish. The Commissioners support the study and are interested in finding the appropriation. FM moved to proceed with the hiring of a

hydro-geologist for the Sustainable Water Management Initiative as it pertains to the Squannacook river basin. RD seconded. Unanimous vote.

III. MEETING BUSINESS:

3.1 Discuss/Review/Vote on FY 14 proposed budget.

The Commissioners reviewed the draft budget. Discussion ensued regarding the formation of a new position, as a trainee/apprentice. NB to ask Mr. Sheehan how we could set up a relief fund like a tax work off committee to help with additional work.

3.2 Review/Discuss 2014-2018 capital plan.

The Committee reviewed the capital plan as attached. FM concerned with Emery Road and cost of rehabbing the Fitchburg Road Storage tank. Stephen Cloutier to attend a future meeting to explain cost involved with the SCADA system. It was noted the projects should only be identified on the Cap request sheet in the year they can be funded, they do not need to be brought out each year. Fitchburg tank mixing and the rehab/cleaning system should be a FY15 project in the interim the tank will be inspected – see attached changes.

3.3 Discuss repair/replacement of 2005 F-350 service truck.

The truck has 106,000 miles on it. We just spent 3k on the warranty replacement utility body, and now the engine has developed “ticking” and may need engine replacement. RD would like to have a second opinion on engine repair needed. NB inquired as to transferring the new utility body to another vehicle. NB liked getting a new cab/chassis and transferring the utility body from the old truck. Paul Rafuse to have a second opinion done on the engine.

3.4 Discuss replacement of dump body on dump truck.

Body and doors have rot and an estimate is being done should truck need a new sub-frame. FM wants frame to be inspected to be sure it is okay before replacement of vehicle or possibly adding new dump body. Paul to check on cost of dump package and the body work to be done. A frame inspection to be done before decision is made regarding the replacement.

3.5 Updates/Reports.

3.5.1 Commissioners Updates/Reports.

There were no updates or reports

3.5.2 Water Superintendent Updates/Reports

A. Radio Read Bid Pkg.

Bids officially out today. Mr. Rafuse informed the Commissioners he has an appointment with HR Prescott to observe the Itron system.

B. Pressure fluctuation issue at West Meadow Estates.

The bladder tank will be installed within the next 2 days, and just need to pressurize and it will be all set.

3.5.3 Office Updates/Report

Commissioners reviewed the reports as attached.
3.5.4 The Commissioners signed the Bills Payable Warrants

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

RD moved to adjourn at 8:30P.M. FM seconded. Unanimous vote.

Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2012 approved and released at the _____, 2013
Water Commissioners Meeting.

V. PRELIMINARIES:

- 5.1 Call the meeting to order.
- 5.2 Roll call.
- 5.3 Chairman's additions or deletions.
- 5.4 Review/ Approve meeting minutes for November 13, 2012.

VI. APOINTMENTS:

- 6.1 5:35 PM Discussion, RE: Water District vote at Town Meeting.
- 6.2 6:00 PM Doug DeNatale, Senior Hydro-geologists, of AECOM, RE: Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI).

VII. MEETING BUSINESS:

- 7.1 Discuss/Review/Vote on FY 14 proposed budget.
- 7.2 Review/Discuss 2014-2018 capital plan.
- 7.3 Discuss repair/replacement of 2005 F-350 service truck.
- 7.4 Discuss replacement of dump body on dump truck.
- 7.5 Updates/ Reports.
 - 7.5.1 Commissioners Updates/Reports
 - 7.5.2 Water Superintendent Updates/Reports
 - C. Radio Read Bid Pkg.
 - D. Pressure fluctuation issue at West Meadow Estates.
 - 7.5.3 Office Updates/Report
 - 7.5.4 Review and Sign Bills Payable Warrants

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Q2