

WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2000
7:00 P.M.

Meeting held at the Water Department office, 540 Main Street, Planning Board office and Board of Selectmen chambers.

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Rafuse, Carole Stone and Jean Dinon. Gary Feldman at Planning Board office. Shirley Road residents and South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club members at the Board of Selectmen's session.

Acting Chairman Moorehouse opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Minutes of the January 11, 2000 were approved by the two commissioners present. Warrants previously signed for \$200.00, \$805.86, \$2,720.84, \$3,081.72, \$2,499.34 and \$73.39 totaled \$9,381.15. Previously signed payroll warrants totaled \$9,426.08.

Commissioners read and noted the following correspondence:

- A. Memo from Kathy Rossbach, Treasurer/Tax Collector dated January 11, 2000 re: Limit paying expenses until further notice.
- B. Copies of letters to South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club and Town Counsel June Riddle from Supt. Rafuse dated January 12, 2000 re: Requested copies of minutes from 7-11-94 through 10-13-98 pertaining to discussion regarding the Warren Road potential well site.
- C. Copy of letter to Robert Hicks, Witches Brook Water Company from Paul Rafuse dated January 21, 2000 re: Request for flow test results at Virgo Lane and copy of system map.
- D. Copy of letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator to June Riddle, Town Counsel dated January 24, 2000 re: Information obtained from Land Use Coordinator regarding Witches Brook Water Company to determine legal aspects of supplying water to Shirley Road resident from Witches Brook.
- E. Letter from South Row Road resident Janice Mattila to the Board of Water Commissioners dated January 26, 2000 re: Her opposition to allowing Witches Brook Water Company to supply residents outside their system with water.
- F. Copy of letter from June Riddle, Town Counsel to Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated January 28, 2000 re: Opinion that Witches Brook Water Company not prohibited from further expansion.

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- G. Copy of letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator to Robert Hicks, Witches Brook Water Company dated January 31, 2000 re: Looking into possible restrictions and costs for Shirley Road water hook-up.
- H. Letter from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Water Commissioners dated January 31, 2000 re: Questioning why the Board or Superintendent did not inform them of a meeting held with Mr. Hicks and members of the South Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club and requested we notify them in the future regarding the Shirley Road issue.
- I. Letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator to Mark Sardail, Select Energy, Inc. dated February 1, 2000 re: List of discrepancies and/or no bills received from them.
- J. Letter from Beverly Sleeper, Town Administrator dated February 1, 2000 re: Select Energy Billing.
- K. Copy of letter from Paul Rafuse to The Planning Board dated February 2, 2000 re: Requesting their presence at the February 8, 2000 meeting to discuss regulations pertaining to water main extensions to sub-divisions.
- L. Copy of letter from Paul Rafuse to Arthur Dauphinais dated February 3, 2000 re: Results of meter test.
- M. Copies of information faxed to the Selectmen on 2-8-00 re: Blackwell's, 6 Shirley Road.
- N. Letter from Robert Hicks informing the Board he is withdrawing his offer to supply Shirley Road residents with water.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion held on letter from the Board of Selectmen dated January 31, 2000 regarding them not being notified of meeting on January 11, 2000 when the Board met with David Hicks and the So. Fitchburg Hunting & Fishing Club. The Commissioners stated that we met with them due to their concern with eminent domain remarks made by a member of the Board of Selectmen and feel we should be able to meet with whomever we need to in order to discuss issues without involving the Selectmen. Agreed not to respond at this time.
- 2. Supt. Rafuse reported he contacted Beltronics and informed them they were awarded the radio installation project. He signed the necessary paperwork for the FCC license.

3. Discussion held on agreement with Bayside Engineering, Inc. to review plans for the water line installation at the Turnpike Road bridge project. Motion made, seconded and approved by the two commissioners present to accept the agreement for a lump sum of \$2,500.00. Commissioners present signed 3 copies of the agreement.
4. Discussion on Town Counsel's opinion stating there is nothing in the records to indicate that Witches Brook Water Company cannot supply residents outside the Timberlee Park area. They would need approval from the Department of Public Utilities, the Selectmen and the Water Commissioners.
5. Paul reported he attended an unemployment appeal hearing for Clarence Minor. Clarence stated he left because he could not pass required certification and that the cold weather bothered him. When asked if he would still be employed if certification was not required he stated no which Paul felt didn't go well for Clarence. Paul stated it would be several weeks for the results of the hearing.
6. Paul obtain information from several area towns regarding footage requirements for contractors to tie into town water to be discussed with a Planning Board member later this evening at the Planning Board office.
7. Paul reported he held two interviews with applicants for the Water Technician II position. He first met with Raymond Pandiscio who was Grade 4 Operator in Training certified who seemed interested but refused due to conflicts with his lifestyle for weekend call. He hired the second choice John Hewitt who started on February 7, 2000 at a starting rate of \$12.50. Paul stated he is sending him to certification training classes at this time.
8. Paul reported the test results on the meter for Arthur Dauphinas were 100% accurate and that he sent him a letter with a copy of the results.
9. Paul discussed the need for articles to be written up for the next town meeting regarding the conveying of the Nass property on West Meadow Road for the booster station. When we originally purchased the land it was supposed to be approved at Town meeting. Two articles would be needed. Another to convey the property to Mr. & Mrs. Sellars. Motion made, seconded and voted by the two commissioners present to have Town Counsel draw up an article to convey the Nass property to the Town of Townsend and another article to convey the property to the Sellars.
Paul stated that Ron Koivu, West Meadow Corporation will be installing the water line to them as previously discussed at the November 23, 1999 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commissioners reviewed the 1999 Water Department report for the Annual Town Report and the 1999 annual Statistical Report submitted to D.E.P.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. to reconvene at the Planning Board office.

Motion made, seconded and voted to reopen the meeting at 8:13 p.m. at the Planning Board office.

Planning Board member Gary Feldman present to discuss possibility of setting up a regulation to require contractors to tie in to town water whenever feasible. Mr. Moorehouse described the problems with the growth of the town and sub-divisions going in with wells when they probably should have tied in to the town water lines and then the wells having problems later on. The Board is considering that if the development is within 2000' they would be required to tie in. Mr. Feldman described a sub-division as if a new road is put in and not if several houses were built on an existing road. Regulations would have to be explicitly defined to include building on an existing road. They presently have a drafted a zoning by-law to address that issue. They are starting with a contractor creating 10 homes in a 5 year period. He feels that is a number that will pass on town meeting floor. He stated there would be loopholes, but we can get something on the table and fill the loopholes later. We would also need to consider cost to the contractor and if we are planning to extend in the next several years to a certain area to consider the contractor not pay for a planned extension but to go from our planned extension. Mr. Moorhouse inquired what quality and volume of water was required by the Town. Mr. Feldman said that was a Board of Health issue and stated we could help them draft quantity standards. Suggested we invite the Planing Board to a future meeting for further discussion due to our need to meet with the Selectmen at this time.

Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. to reconvene in the Selectmen's chambers.

Meeting reconvened at the Selectmen's meeting at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Shirley Road issue.

See minutes of the Selectmen's minutes. (attached)

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Next regular meeting to be held on March 14, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Stone
Clerk

