

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
APRIL 10, 2007
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Moorehouse, Fran McNamara and Jack Caten.

GUEST PRESENT: Supt. Paul Rafuse, David Chenelle, Greg Barnes, Paul Comcemi, Nathan Malone and Brenda Boudreau-clerk.

Bob opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Warrants previously signed for \$557.13, \$2,014.48, \$1,112.85, \$2,495.09, \$55.98, \$5,029.27, \$79,035.25 and \$1,978.19 totaled \$92,278.24.

Previously signed payroll warrants: \$3,858.90, \$3,886.04, \$3,752.59 and \$3,712.50 totaled \$15,210.03.

DECISION: Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of March 13, 2007.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Paul discussed with the Board the amount of monetary support that would be donated to the Atwood Acres expansion project located on Dudley Road.
DECISION: Board voted unanimously to donate up to \$2,500.00 worth of pipe.
2. Paul discussed/reviewed the plans from Mass Highway for the replacement of the Wheeler Road Bridge. Paul reported that the plans are about 75% complete and feels that it would be a good time to extend the water main up to Wheeler Road.
3. Paul discussed/reviewed the plans for the grand opening of the Harbor Trace pumping station. The Board and Paul would like to extend an invitation to Sam and present him with a plaque to recognize his years of service on the Board of Water Commissioners.
4. Guest Dave Chennelle, Greg Barnes and Paul Comcemi arrived to discuss the Personnel Policies & Procedures and to help clarify the accounting process of the Intermunicipal Agreement. Discrepancies were reported to Paul that the FY07 budget had a shortfall of \$22,000.00 in the Intermunicipal agreement due to health insurance. Paul feels that we should not have to reimburse the town for that sum because the budget for that year was already approved, and the Water Department should not be held liable for their mistake. Paul Comcemi stated that if questioned at town meeting he would stand up and defend that the \$22,000.00 being an appropriate allocation of resources the town's budget did not change by \$22,000.00 it is merely being put into the right spot. Greg explained that health insurance is the main contributor to the shortfall due to the cost per unit and percentage of payroll that determines the portion that the Water Department is responsible for.
A discussion about the Water Departments desire to make certain that the town is compensated for the time the accountant and treasurer performs clerical duties. Paul Comcemi stated that perhaps a trade off of services re: hydrant fees vs. time worked

for services performed by town hall staff. Dave feels that we need to come up a figure of the time and expenses put into the maintaining of the hydrants.

Gregg presented the Commissioners with a handout from Town Accountant, Kim Fales, to clarify the breakdown of costs attributed to the Intermunicipal Agreement.

In addition, worked time vs. sick time was a topic of discussion; Greg offered to "grandfather" the existing rule to count sick and personal time as time work to be eligible to get paid for overtime worked in that same week. Paul thanked Greg, but disagreed stating it would not be in the best interest of new hires. A resolution was not met. It was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Paul discussed with the board the possibility of bypassing the individual warrant and approving the totals only. The board feels that they already have little information pertaining to the warrants that have been previously signed by them. They would like to ask the town accountant her opinion before making a decision. It was tabled.
2. Paul requested that the board make a motion to transfer funds to cover the operating expenses until town meeting. Paul told the board that there was a shortfall in the budget due to increasing energy expenses and the purchase of the new truck.
DECISION: Board voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from account 061.009.5990 Emergency Reserve Fund to the operating portion of the budget for the purpose of covering the operating expenses.
3. Paul submitted for review the articles for the annual town meeting.
4. Paul discussed/reviewed the plans for a proposed five multi-family lots, twenty units total entitled Locke Brook Run located on West Meadow Road.
5. Paul discussed/review a request from the Conservation Commission to allow access to the Boy Scouts to create a hiking trail on our water line easement located between Highland Street and Wallace Hill Road. Jack brought up the question of liability if someone is to get hurt on the property.
DECISION: Board voted unanimously to give permission to the property assuming we have no liability.
6. Brenda requested a reduction of \$200.00 on account #1592, Chris Jones, 36 Proctor Road. Chris bill increased significantly due to a leak in his meter pit; the leak was caused from a faulty ball valve.
DECISION: Board voted unanimously to deduct \$200.00 from acct#1592, Chris Jones, 36 Proctor Road.

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Boudreau-clerk