

SPECIAL WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2001
6:30 P.M.

Meeting held for the purpose of discussion on the formation of a district.

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Superintendent Paul Rafuse, Carole Stone, Clerk and
Atty. Jacob Diemert.

Chairman Dunbar opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Commissioners read and approved minutes of the November 20, 2001 special meeting.

Attorney Diemert present to discuss aspects of becoming a district. He gave Chapter 40N, a general law that makes it possible for a town not to have to go back to the legislature for a special act to establish a water commission, as one way to go and discussed its advantages and disadvantages. One disadvantage would be that commissioners would be appointed by the selectmen, not elected. He stated we can design a district to meet our own needs. He suggested the first thing to do would be to define our wants and needs and then to meet with the Board of Selectmen with our attorney and engineer present and inform them, in general terms, what we want to do. When asked for a time frame he said optimistically January 2003 if we get something on the warrant. The process would be to put an article on the 2002 town warrant seeking to have the town petition the legislature to establish a water district within certain boundaries.

Discussion on setting the boundaries of the district. Atty. Diemert asked if we should contact Witches Brook Water Company regarding their future plans. He was informed of past problems with them.

Paul noted that a new Master Plan is currently being completed by Earth Tech engineers and should be done by the end of January or early February.

Paul will meet with the Selectmen as soon as possible to inform them of what we are trying to accomplish and to request they authorize us to hire our own counsel.

Paul stated that even if the district plan does not work out he would like to see the Acts of 1920 brought up to date and amended.

Atty. Diemert was given a copy of the Acts of 1920 and a copy of the chart put together by John Daniels, Earth Tech showing the various legislative Acts, etc. regarding water districts in the state.

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Commissioners reviewed two other attorney resumes and rates and concluded that Atty. Diemert would probably be the attorney to hire due to his experience, his fee is in the range of the others, he does not require a retainer and will not charge for mileage.

Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:00.

Next district meeting to be held on January 15, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole A. Stone
Clerk