

MAR 23 2010

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BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2010

6:45pm Meeting opened. Commissioners Diane McElligott and Howard Baker Present. Also present Duane Knapp, Rose Melito, Jim Purcell, Paul Helmrieck, Joe Cove and Fran Yanuskiewicz.

Diane McElligott assumed the Chairman's position in the absence of Bruce Hicks.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 26, 2010 Board Meeting were tabled.

Mr. Knapp stated that it would be a good time to bring back discussion regarding the Town owned property on Hawthorne Road (Map 3, Parcel 642) so if the Board had any question Mr. Purcell could answer them directly. Mr. Purcell said a brief conversation with Duane informed him that past practice has been to reduce permit fees by 25% when dealing with affordable housing. Mr. Purcell said in keeping with past practice he would be fine with that decision, any reduction the Board is willing to approve would be greatly appreciated.

Howard Baker moved to approve reducing water and sewer permit fees for Map3, Parcel 642 Hawthorne Road by 25%. Diane McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion. So voted.

Water Rates: Ms. McElligott stated Mark Abrahams is unable to attend the meeting this evening, but has emailed his analysis to date. There is a lot of information on these spread sheets. Addressing Mr. Purcell and Mr. Helmrieck she gave a brief overview of the last two years budgets and the rates. She explained the major increase in the budget is due to the bond payment. FY-09's bond payment doubled, that is when the first phase of the water projects (\$5 million) began. Water rates were increased by 20% effective July 1, 2008. The second phase of the water projects and the bond payment increased the budget by approximately \$531,588.00. Given the economy the Board chose to take a hit from surplus and address a rate increase for FY-11, that brings us to where we are now. When Mr. Abrahams completes the rate study we will need to decide whether to implement an increase all at once or phase it in over the next two to three years. We'll have to see what the numbers look like.

Mr. Purcell stated he would like further clarification on the Sewer Stabilization Fund and a five year Sewer Capital Improvement Plan.

The Board with Fran updated Mr. Purcell on the IMA issues including land acquisition and Mansfield's five year plan for transition after becoming a district. Attorney Joe Cove was asked to summarize the Tax Advantage Law regarding land acquisition by eminent domain versus an outside buyer.

Sewer Rules & Regulations: Howard Baker moved that the Board close its public hearing process for the adoption of revised Regulations for the Installation and Connection of Building Sewers and for the Use of Public Sewers. Diane McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion. So voted.

Howard Baker moved that here and now on February 23, 2010 the Board adopt the revised Regulations for the Installation and Connection of Building Sewers and for the Use Of Public Sewers as stated in a document entitled: Regulations for the Installation and Connection of Building Sewers and for the Use of Public Sewers revised and restated February 16, 2010 and that, as such, these regulations be published in the Sun Chronicle. Diane McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion. So voted.

Attorney Cove stated that the legal notice – *giving notice* may now be advertised, and these regulations will take effect five days from the date of publication. A complete set must be on file for review, with the Town Clerk and here at the Water Department Office.

Old Business: Howard Baker moved to execute the petition requesting the removal of the Water/Sewer Superintendent's Position from the Personnel By-Laws. Diane McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion. So voted.

The RFP was advertised for the new building, the bid opening is March 22, 2010 at 1:00pm. Duane is getting quotes for the septic system.

New Business: None

All appropriately processed bills were signed and correspondence was read.

Next meeting March 9, 2010 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 pm.

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE

BOARD MEETING HELD: February 23, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Melito

Office Administrator

Bruce Hicks, Chairman

Diane McElligott

Clerk

Howard B. Baker

Howard B. Baker, Member