

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 22, 2011**

Present: Selectmen: Mark Gilmore, Elizabeth Clarke
Town Administrator: Bernie Kubiak
Absent: Carolyn Shores-Ness

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM.

Appearance before Board:

Sewer Bill Present: Ralph Olszewski

Mr. Olszewski appeared before the Board to discuss his sewer bill. He feels he has been over charged. For the period of June 10, 2010 to April 2011 he said he has paid \$1,957.28 for an apartment building he has on Thayer Street occupied by three single individuals.

Mr. Olszewski filed for abatement after checking his bill and noticed that the usage seemed excessive. He even checked his meter to see if it was operating correctly or if there was leakage. When he received a second bill for similar usage, he got the meter changed. A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to authorize abatement for the overcharges. He will receive an abatement in the amount of \$528.69 for the overcharge.

The second part of Mr. Olszewski's problem was over penalties and late fees. He pays his bills through electronic banking and has documentation from the bank that payments were sent. A check issued in February was cancelled as it appears the Collector's office never received the payment. Mr. Olszewski doesn't think he should be charged late fees and penalties for a check that was sent on time. He felt a Supreme Court decision regarding use of 1st class mail supported this position. However, Mr. Gilmore noted that the bill in question was an October- November bill that was paid three months later, if it was paid in February, thus it was late and subject to late fees and penalties. Since it is possible that billing was late for some reason, this will be checked.

Minutes: Minutes of June 22 and July 6 meetings will be held for next meeting.

Selectmen's Comments: Ms. Clarke congratulated to Deerfield for being designated a Green Community and for the grant of \$142,950 that comes with it. Mr. Kubiak said he met with M.A. Swedlund yesterday and prepared a list of suggested used for the grant money. One suggestion is the replacing some large windows with smaller ones in town hall. He noted it is likely other items will be added. He said the folks from Zero Draft would be coming in regarding the elementary school. They do perimeter sealing and insulation so they might take a look at the area under the roof.

Board of Health Comments: The Cooling center located in the Senior Center is open. A nice article appeared in *The Recorder* this morning. Following this meeting Mr. Gilmore plans to visit the center to see if it should be kept open tomorrow (Saturday). Mr. Kubiak said he can be available to open it. Since volunteers man the center, the economic impact is minimal – mostly the cost of running air conditioners.

Appointments: Ms. Clarke asked if the normal procedure for being appointed to committees was for persons to make a request themselves. Generally, persons already on committees encourage persons to seek appointment when positions are available. Mr. Kubiak said that the two individuals requesting appointment to the Cultural Council were recruited by the Council, chairperson. Mr. Gilmore thought it would be nice if there were some way to make volunteering for committees a little more competitive. A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded Mr. Gilmore, and voted to appoint Jack Cavacco and Piper Pichette to the Cultural Council.

Community Preservation Grant: A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted to authorize the Chair to sign an agreement with the First Congregational Church for a Community Preservation Grant of \$8,950 to replace railings.

Sewer Entry Permit: A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to authorize a sewer entry permit to connect temporary classrooms at Deerfield Academy to the system.

One Day Liquor License: A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve a one day liquor license for the Gilmore family.

Tree Issue: When a Lynden tree in the Town's Right-of-Way fell across Mr. Kosterman's driveway, damaging his car, he called a tree company to remove it. He is now requesting that the Town pay the \$500.00 cost. Mr. Kubiak reported that had he waited, the Tree Warden or Highway Superintendent would have provided assistance. He said an agreement has been made that the Town will not pay for the tree removal, but will help the stump of the tree disappear.

NPDES Permit Renewal: A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted to authorize the Chair to sign the NPDES general renewal permit for the Old Deerfield WWTP.

Police Department: The Board signed an Equitable Sharing Agreement on behalf of the Police Department should there be any federal enforcement actions in Town.

Changing order of business: Mr. Kubiak suggested rearranging the Public comments section to the last order of business on the Board's agenda. He thought it would encourage people who want to appear before the Board to make an appointment. Ms. Clarke didn't want to see people have to sit through meetings waiting for a chance to speak. Mr. Gilmore preferred having the comment period at the beginning; people could raise an issue but no action would be taken until a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps