

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
TOWN HALL  
Meeting Minutes ~ January 24, 2005**

**Members in attendance:** Dave Irwin, Chair; Tom Burns, Vice Chair; Mark Bornheim; Malcolm Brown; Rick Mattila; Joan Meschino, Selectman; Ed Petrilak; Mike Blanchard, Alternate.

**Also in attendance:** Ed O'Brien, Consultant for RW Beck; Howard Steiman, RW Beck; Doug Reed, Woodard & Curran.

**Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:15 p.m.**

Public Input: None.

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION** by M. Blanchard, second by T. Burns, to accept meeting minutes for October 4, 2004, December 6, 2004 and January 3, 2005. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

Chairman's Topics:

Chair received correspondence from Arnold Wallenstein offering to present to WRC regarding legal services. The Committee agreed to wait to rely until after meeting with Town Counsel.

Chair was contacted by Mike Wilson with CMH2Hill regarding its work with Braintree. Braintree is starting its process with a marketing study. Braintree has appropriated \$500,000 for its project. CMH2Hill is not bidding on Hull's project because of the potential conflict of interest. Mr. Wilson offered to present to the WRC with the light plant manager regarding their plans. The Committee agreed to wait to invite Mr. Wilson until after the RPF process is finalized.

Per Rich Kleiman of ESS, the Hingham Town Administrator, Mr. Christello, claims that Hull can withdraw from Aquarion Water without having to pay stranded costs. Although it seems unlikely, noted for discussion at a later time.

Chair reported that it is questionable that Aquarion will be able to permit Free Street Well No. 4.

Helen Gordon of Woodard & Curran contacted the Chair to offer to present a review of Phase I and Phase II reports. The Committee agreed that while such a presentation is valuable, it would wait until a later time to invite Ms. Gordon.

The 'Working Group,' which consisted of R. Mattila, T. Burns and M. Blanchard, reported that it met at the Library last Monday night to consolidate the Committee member notes from the strategic planning session held during the last WRC meeting. R. Mattila circulated a draft document which reflected the Committee's comments. All questions are reflected. The questions are grouped by category but are not prioritized yet. R. Mattila suggested that the Working Group hopes that the WRC will hire an *owner's engineer* to help the Committee perform that task and to develop an RFP scope of work. Referring to the matrix at the end of the draft document, R. Mattila queried how much does the committee want to shape the scope of work at this point? Perhaps better to let engineering firm do it.

The Committee decided that the next step is to hire an *owner's engineer* to frame the scope of work. E. Petrilak suggested that the WRC approach Tighe & Bond. Tighe & Bond currently works with the Permanent Sewer Commission and has a long standing knowledge of and relationship with the Town. Tighe & Bond is not interested in bidding on the actual project. Anyone who is hired in the capacity of an *owner's engineer* would be precluded from bidding on the project. Discussion reflected the Committee's sentiment that Tighe & Bond will know how to shape the process.

**MOTION** by M. Blanchard, second by T. Burns, to write a letter to Town Manager advising him that the Water Resources Committee wants to hire Tighe & Bond to advise and assist the Water Resources Committee to hire an engineering firm for the next phase of its desalinization feasibility study. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

The Committee agreed that R. Mattila will draft the letter. J. Meschino will follow up with Town Manager in anticipation of the next WRC meeting.

The Chair solicited comments from the audience. Per H. Steiman, the draft document demonstrates a very good start towards a scope of work. Per D. Reed, hiring an *owner's engineer* is a good next step.

T. Burns circulated a draft form to rank RFQ respondents for Committee members' review and comment. R. Mattila suggested that the Committee might want to weight each criteria. Any additional suggestions should be given to T. Burns before the next meeting. The Committee discussed the merit of ranking the RFQ respondents at this point in the process. The Committee agreed that it should fine tune the form now in anticipation of hiring a consultant and to develop a system now towards a final decision making process.

The Chair reminded Committee members that Town Counsel will be attending the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to advise on executive session rules and bidding laws relating to whether or not the Committee should conduct a formal RPF process.

The Committee discussed the bonding counsels concerns regarding hiring an owner's engineer. Town Manager has suggested during the last meeting that this is acceptable in his opinion but has not yet confirmed such with bond counsel. J. Meschino will follow up with Town Manager in anticipation of next meeting.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

J. Meschino reported that High School has a new principal and she will have to reestablish contact regarding assistance with a new logo and Committee member name plates.

**Next meeting:** February 7, 2005 at 7:00 at Town Hall.

**MOTION** by R. Mattila, second by M. Brown, to adjourn meeting. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

**8:42 p.m. meeting adjourned.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_