

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
April 20, 2010
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Stephen M. Cushing, Board members Jonathan F. Henry and Roger F. Blanchette and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Ricky Pursley of *The Sentinel*, Anne O'Brien-Kakley of *The Wanderer*, David K. Pierce, Chief Lincoln W. Miller, candidate for full-time Officer Alisha Chandler, Officer Susan Connor, Eunice Manduca, Treasurer/Collector Gary Carreiro, Susan B. Delahunt of Century Bank, Eunice Manduca, Carol Sanz, Rose Robinson, Ora Mae Torres, David Ellis and others who did not sign in or identify themselves.

Mr. Blanchette moved the minutes of April 6, 2010; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Pierce reported that there is a problem Statewide with the metering of wind turbines; an entity cannot be guaranteed how much money they will save until the turbine is on line. Mr. Pierce said that his committee is working with Representative Straus to guarantee the income from net metering.

Mr. Pierce distributed information regarding the Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee, including land purchases, the Treasurer's report, a report on well performance and capacities and two site maps showing potential land purchase opportunities. Mr. Pierce said that the Committee will be raising the assessment fee from 1¢ to 2¢ per 100 gallons pumped, which is controlled through the legislature, not Town Meeting vote. Mr. Blanchette noted that the towns have no control over this fee and objected that the State will be determining how much the towns have to pay for their water. Mr. Dawson explained that the legislature created the Committee, which allows the Committee to raise its rates. Mr. Pierce said that they had decided not to go ahead and borrow funds for land purchases at this time, as it would commit them for years and not allow them the flexibility they want with land acquisition.

Mr. Pierce reported that the Committee had spent \$75,000 on a State-mandated study to determine how much/if they are drawing down the Mattapoissett River. Mr. Henry suggested Mr. Pierce contact the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which may have records of how much water the cranberry bogs are using. Mr. Blanchette questioned the amount of water which was indicated Marion is pumping from the district, because the Town's Perry Hill well is outside the district and the Town relies heavily on that well. Mr. Pierce said that, without Perry Hill, the Town would be paying even more. Mr. Dawson said that they would get clarification on the figures.

A pole hearing for Verizon was opened. Several residents of the Converse Road area were present. It was determined that the utility representative was not in attendance.

Mr. Henry moved to continue the hearing until April 27, 2010; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chief Miller introduced Alisha Chandler and noted that she is completing her 22-week academy training on April 30 and will then be fully certified. Chief Miller reported that Ms. Chandler has been a Special Police Officer since 2006 and requested that she be appointed a full-time officer, commencing her probationary period April 30.

Mr. Blanchette moved the appointment of Alisha Chandler as full-time officer with the Marion Police Department; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board then met with Mr. Carreiro and Ms. Delahunt to discuss lock box services for the Town. Mr. Carreiro said that there would be no change in the way the taxpayers pay their bills, but this service would allow faster turn around on payments, as the checks would be cleared within two days. Mr. Carreiro said that the over-the-counter payments would be processed the same way as currently. Mr. Carreiro said that the service will be compatible with the Munis financial system used by the Town and that the Department of Revenue recommends lock box services. Ms. Delahunt said that, typically, municipalities use a post office box and Century Bank uses a messenger to pick up the mail several times a day. Mr. Carreiro said that they would try one receivable at the outset and go through all the training to see if the system works well before changing all receivables to the new system. Mr. Dawson noted that more than half of the municipalities in Massachusetts use Century Bank's lock box services.

Mr. Blanchette moved to approve the Treasurer's recommendation regarding the lock box services; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Carreiro then addressed the Board concerning municipal lien and demand fee increases. Mr. Carreiro said that municipalities are allowed up to \$30 on demand fees and Marion currently charges \$5. Mr. Carreiro recommended increasing the demand fees to \$15 to emphasize the fact that the bills need to be paid. Mr. Carreiro reported that, last year, they had \$80,000 in outstanding motor vehicle excise taxes and 685 demand letters. Mr. Dawson said that the \$15 is not intended to be punitive—it is to provide an incentive for people to work with the Town. Mr. Henry suggested raising the demand fees in smaller increments to see if it has the desired effect.

Mr. Henry moved to raise the demand fees to \$10; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Carreiro explained that the Town currently charges \$40 for a municipal lien certificate; he recommends raising the fee to \$50.

Mr. Blanchette moved to approve the \$40 fee for municipal lien certificates; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board signed the Warrants for the Annual and Special Town Meetings.

Mr. Blanchette moved the appointment of Daniel J. Burke as EMT-basic; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved the appointment of John C. Davidson as EMT-basic; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved an extension of entertainment time to 11:30 p.m. for Tabor Academy's June 19 function; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Conservation Commission requested several membership changes. Regarding a resignation and new appointment, Mr. Dawson reported that he had not been successful in contacting the person who offered to resign; therefore, the Board should postpone action on this item. However, the designation of Jeffrey Oakes to Associate and Wendy Carreau to full member can be accomplished.

Mr. Blanchette moved to appoint Jeffrey Oakes to Associate and Wendy Carreau to full member of the Conservation Commission; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Regarding the opening on the Marion Affordable Housing Trust, Mr. Cushing suggested inviting the candidates to meet with the Board. It was agreed to invite the candidates in for the April 27 meeting.

Mr. Henry moved a water commitment for \$550; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a water commitment for \$302.09; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a water commitment for \$1,578.22; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported that construction on the new police station continues to go very well and on time; the station is on schedule to open at the end of May.

Mr. Dawson reported that he had attended a seminar on the Open Meeting Law changes and has included a summary in the agenda packet for the Selectmen's information. Mr. Dawson highlighted several of the more important changes, including the need to have postings and agenda available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Dawson reported that he has received resignations from Everett Eaton and Charles Brown from the Emergency Medical Services, because of health. Mr. Dawson said that it would be hard to replace them with people of a similar caliber; it was sad to see them go.

Mr. Cushing asked the status of hiring a grant writer. Mr. Dawson noted that two people had been interviewed and both indicated that it isn't an easy task to just hire someone; the Town needs to develop a plan with a focus area so that the person would know what area in which to concentrate. Mr. Dawson said that grant writing involves very detailed research.

Mr. Blanchette expressed his concern with the condition of the roads in Town. Mr. Dawson said that the Town has an infrastructure plan for the Chapter 90 monies, but the problem is the financing. Mr. Dawson said that there weren't many grants for routine maintenance. Mr. Dawson said that he has applied for "stimulus" money and has gotten some funding for the sewer project. It was agreed to invite Superintendent of Public Works Zora to the April 27 meeting to discuss his plans for repaving and maintenance of Town roads.

Mr. Henry moved to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger F. Blanchette, Clerk

Date approved: 5/4/10