

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

August 25, 2011

Special Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Henry, Chairman
Roger Blanchette
Stephen Cushing, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Dawson, Town Administrator
Dale Jones
David Pierce
Chief Lincoln Miller
Matt Camara (Sippican Week)
Joan Hartnett-Barry (Wanderer)
Debra Paiva, secretary

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

Appointment of Emergency Management Director

Mr. Henry said this was discussed at a previous meeting without a decision being made. However, with a hurricane looming it is incumbent on the Board to decide.

Mr. Blanchette said he thinks the Chief of Police should be the Emergency Management Director in a town this size.

Mr. Cushing said Mr. Jones has been doing the job for a while but agreed with Mr. Blanchette that this would be removing a layer of bureaucracy and bringing the process to a closer level to the actual public safety organizations involved.

Mr. Henry said it's time to make a change. He noted that organizations run better when "stove piped" under a single person, the Chief of Police commands a lot of assets and resources, and it makes sense to have him as Emergency Management Director.

Mr. Henry said if the Board voted to appoint Chief Miller Emergency Management Director he would urge them to appoint Dale Jones Deputy Director. He said this would allow Chief Miller to avail himself of Dale's experience and would also give Dale authority to act in his place should he be absent in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Jones said he would serve as Deputy Director of Emergency Management. He described the various roles and responsibilities he has held over the past 34 years and said he cannot understand why he is not considered adequate for the role of Director. Mr. Henry noted that Mr. Jones is a civil engineer in addition to his other accomplishments and it's not the Board's purpose to discuss errors, Mr. Jones' record is outstanding and it will be left at that, and the Board will allow him to continue as Deputy Director.

Moved by Mr. Blanchette and seconded by Mr. Cushing to appoint Chief Miller Emergency Management Director. VOTE: 3-0-0

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Blanchette to appoint Mr. Jones Deputy Emergency Management Director. VOTE: 3-0-0

Approve and sign Police Contract –

Mr. Dawson described the professional, efficient nature of the negotiation process and said the result is a contract that is fair and equitable to both sides. The contract includes changes in language in shift bidding, a reduction in sick leave accumulation, the addition of a long term disability policy fully funded by the Town, the establishment of a sick leave bank, the addition of two “family holidays”, changes regarding the Quinn Bill, modest increases in longevity pay, shift differential, and private details, a “locked in” detail rate for Town funded projects, and salary increases of 0% in the first year of the contract, 1% in the second year, and 2% in the third year.

Mr. Dawson recommended that the Board consider voting today to approve the contract and sign it.

Mr. Cushing asked Mr. Henry if he was comfortable with the contract and was told yes. Mr. Henry agreed with Mr. Dawson’s positive assessment of the negotiation process.

Moved by Mr. Blanchette and seconded by Mr. Cushing to approve and sign the Police contract. VOTE: 3-0-0

Mr. Dawson explained that four officers already had an excess of what would become the new limit of sick time (90 days). Through the negotiations a \$50 per day payment was worked out. An agreement has been drafted by Town Counsel and submitted to the Union representatives for their signature. Mr. Dawson asked the Board for authorization to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Blanchette to authorize Mr. Dawson to sign the agreement. VOTE: 3-0-0

Hurricane Irene update

Mr. Dawson described the information he has received regarding the storm path. Department heads met this morning to discuss the planning process for shelter operations and transportation, and they have agreed to meet again tomorrow morning. The meeting encompassed all of the public safety departments, DPW, and Council on Aging; representatives from Tabor Academy were present as well. The utility companies have been provided a list of all of the critical facilities in town, including the Emergency Operations Centers, Police and Fire Stations, Sippican Healthcare Center.

Mr. Blanchette asked who will be in charge of the shelter located at the Sippican School and how people will find out where the shelter is. He was told it will be included in a reverse 911 call. Chief Miller said a determination to open the shelter will be made based

on the estimated arrival time. Mr. Dawson described the information available on the town website and other locations. He said the shelter will be under the general direction of Chief Miller as Emergency Management Director and the Board of Health/Medical Reserves Corps.

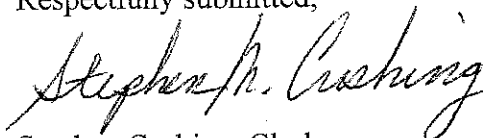
David Pierce asked for the criteria for an evacuation order and who oversaw it if necessary. Chief Miller said it would be based on the track and intensity of the storm; he was also relying on the National Weather Service to provide information on the storm surge. He said if necessary word will be sent suggesting the evacuation of waterfront and low-lying areas. He said that Massachusetts does not have mandatory evacuation; however, Planting Island will be completely cut off and the residents will be notified if the water is shut off. Mr. Pierce noted that there are a number of church services planned for Sunday morning and asked if there is any coordination between private concerns and the Town. Chief Miller said if the storm arrives Sunday morning it would be in everyone's best interests not to go out.

Mr. Dawson said one member should be appointed to act as decision maker on behalf of the Board.

Moved by Mr. Blanchette and seconded by Mr. Henry that Mr. Cushing be the go to Selectman and to be the person to make the decisions during the emergency. VOTE: 3-0-0

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Blanchette at 3:15 p.m. to adjourn. VOTE: 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: 9/20/11