

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING FINAL
April 27, 2009 7:00 pm
Sanford Hall, Medway Town Hall

Present: Chairman Glenn Trindade, Selectmen Andrew Espinosa, John Foresto and Dennis Crowley, Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy and Board Secretary, Wendy Harrington was present.

Absent: Selectman Richard Dunne was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

Public Comment: None

Route 109 Project Update- Paul Yorkis, SWAP, Dave D'Amico, DPS Director, Chan Rogers/MAPC and Planning Board

These gentlemen have been working on an application for an earmark of federal funds to pay for some/all of the Route 109 project. The application has been completed, a letter drafted, following specific instructions with the hope that the Board will vote to sign the letter tonight and have Mr. Yorkis submit the letter via email before the deadline. The earmark is for an amount of \$9.383 million dollars.

This earmark has nothing to do with stimulus funds coming to Massachusetts and nothing to do with TIP funds. This project will pay for the entire project from the Millis line to the Milford line and Medway will be able to use the money however we please.

The Selectmen were given copies of the draft letter this evening will review and vote by the end of the meeting and get a signed copy of the letter to Mr. Yorkis be tomorrow morning.

Sewer Extension Project Update-Dave Aimola, Project Manager.

Mr. Aimola presented a Contract amendment for paving on Waterview Drive. Selectman Crowley agreed with the recommendation.

Selectman Crowley moved that the Board approve the change order to extend paving to the end of Waterview Drive where it meets Village Street in the amount of \$30,000; Selectman Foresto seconded; Discussion: the Selectmen wanted to make sure this is a hard number and there will be no surprises. Selectman Espinosa asked if there were any other places in the project where Mr. Aimola foresees paving will be an issue or will require curb-to-curb paving. Mr. Aimola said he does not think so. All ayes 4-0.

Mr. Aimola discussed the service realignment to the pump station. NSTAR has requested the pole line be buried instead of overhead. Tata & Howard have reviewed the request and all the numbers are in line. This change gives the project the ability to put in a permanent gravel access road with an easement to the pump station.

Selectman Crowley moved that the Board approve the Change Order to SB for \$92,000 for the NSTAR Service realignment; Selectman Espinosa seconded; no discussion; all ayes 4-0.

Charles River Pollution Control District Re-appointment-Douglas Downing is up for reappointment for a 3-year term.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve the reappointment of Doug Downing for a three year term; Selectman Espinosa seconded; no discussion; all ayes 4-0.

Review of the White Water Audit-Russ Tierney and Steve Donovan, WhiteWater Representatives were present.

Selectman Espinosa read a statement regarding the audit.

WhiteWater performed a comprehensive O&M review of the day-to-day operations and management of the department.

A team of operators visited the facilities, looked at records and reports, conducted interviews and as a result have issued a summary of findings. Most of the items reported are based on regulatory requirements and others based on experience.

The audit found a non-compliance with licensing. They found that training was limited, site specific and industry wide. This training should be formalized and made a regular function of the department. The audit found that safety is lacking in personal protective areas and property.

The team found a number of areas where improvements can be made, but also found areas that the staff did meet expectations. This report should be used as a guide for improvement.

A copy of the report being reviewed was posted on the BOS web page during the meeting so that residents could download and follow along with the presentation. The team went through and reviewed the report with the Selectmen.

Resident, Mr. DeSimone questioned the amount of chlorine/smell/taste. Mr. Tierney doesn't believe it is that high and explained if you put a pitcher of Chlorinated water in the refrigerator the chlorine will dissipate. He explained that in towns that have always been chlorinated residents don't notice the smell or the taste. The amount in Medway is so low that it's not really noticeable.

Mr. Wilson, Water/Sewer Commission explained that Medway started adding chlorine this past summer after there was a chlorophorm hit in a tank. The DEP mandated the chlorine continue. The DEP may force Medway to be a chlorinated system forever, due to significant hits and non-compliance. Mr. Donovan explained that there is an

opportunity to petition DEP to stop the chlorination, once you make the many suggested changes and improvements.

It was explained that daily residuals should not be taken monthly, as they have been, but taken daily so chlorine use can be brought down to a better level. Once you get good control over the system, you may reduce expenses because you're only using the amount of chlorine that is necessary.

Mr. Wilson explained that a few years ago an assistant superintendent was hired to do logs and eventually didn't continue under the Town's employment. He was starting to documentation but then left and no one was hired to fill it due to the budget.

Administrator Kennedy explained that attending seminars and training sessions must be instilled upon the staff. Mr. Donovan explained that as part of the licensing requirements, there are continuing education hours that must be attended. New England Water Works in Holliston does most of the licensure training in the state.

Mr. Tierney explained that the DEP sampling is being taken care of and testing is being reported to DEP in a timely manner. DEP takes this seriously. All results are coming back very good. The biggest issue now is the aesthetics (odor, taste and color) of the water, which is testing fine, it is not unhealthy. All chlorine and brown water issues have been addressed; other issues are with the water/sewer department as a whole and the Town Administrator needs to address them. Selectman Crowley is happy that he received answers tonight.

Mr. Tierney explained that if the steps in this report aren't done, the chlorine will continue. The issues will get worse if not taken care of. WhiteWater believes that worse case; 3 years of flushing should resolve any and all issues.

Going forward a summary was reviewed of Attachment H. This listed short and long term recommendations with estimated costs included.

In summary this audit was to help the town identify where improvements can be made and explained how common practice should be done. It was not meant to be a tool to knock anyone or point fingers. It is believed that all should move forward and keep Medway on the path to the best quality water.

Administrator Kennedy explained that this first draft was available a month ago and since it was received additional steps have been addressed. All things are not yet institutionalized but safety equipment has been ordered and some training has been given. As of May 4, 2009 an Assistant Superintendent will be on board and will become the primary operator. He has the appropriate licensing. Our current superintendent is grandfathered as an operator, and a new person is to be hired with a D2 and T2 license. Current employee, Bill Donohue has just received his D2 license, which is now in effect.

It is the expectation of Administrator Kennedy that the new Assistant Superintendent will acquaint himself with the report and will implement all items, subject to the availability of funds, which could be upwards of \$100,000.

It was explained that hydrant inspection and the flushing program are very important. The new Assistant Superintendent will need to take a comprehensive/strategic approach to both hydrant inspection and flushing in the near future, with hydrant work being a top priority.

Administrator Kennedy hopes that the new Assistant Superintendent will be able to provide some training, a complete change in the day-to-day operations and be able to get the department back in compliance. Administrator Kennedy will need to be actively involved in the department and explained this is all a precursor to a consolidation of departments with the DPW.

Selectman Espinosa advised Administrator Kennedy that he would hold her feet to the first on these changes. Administrator Kennedy offered that as far as organizational changes she would find staff that is best suited for the positions and she thinks that she is on the right track with regard to the report and it is her hope that the town's people will support the Board of Selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commission with future changes.

Mr. D'amico asked whether flushing should be done once or twice a year. It was explained that DEP controls how much water we can use and limits the flushing. It is done when the water demand is low, but DEP may make an exception.

Chairman Trindade offered that we would have to continue flushing in order to help get the sediment out of the lines. He explained that flushing may not happen until the fall and that it could take a number of years of flushing to resolve the brown water. He believes we must schedule the flushing now and find the mechanism to fund it. Chairman Trindade also explained that the water rates are going to go up, but only at a minimal increase.

Selectman Crowley offered that when the Charter passed it passed the day-to-day operations of the water/sewer over to the Town Administrator. It has taken a while to jump start, but we are now getting a handle on it. Residents can expect to get answers, straight answers, and when you want them.

Selectman Espinosa advised that he would still like to see water issues reported to the website.

Chairman Trindade moved that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the Route 109 Project letter on behalf of the Town of Medway; Selectman Espinosa seconded; No discussion; all ayes 4-0.

The signed letter was given to Mr. D'Amico to send to Mr. Yorkis with a copy being sent to the Town Administrator's office.

Warrants

Warrant # 43 dated 4/30/09
Gross payroll town \$93,470.01
Gross payroll school \$701,540.07
Total 795,010.08

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve the warrants as read; Selectman Espinosa seconded; no discussion; all ayes 4-0.

Next meeting is on April 28, 2009 at 6pm in the School Committee Room

Selectmen Reports

Selectman Foresto-Nothing to report

Selectman Espinosa-Nothing to report

Chairman Trindade-Mr. Trindade explained that he attended a MAPC meeting on stimulus funds and met with Karen Spilka's staff, Carolyn Dykema and Jim Vallee. Their views were discussed on the budget. They believe that the stimulus and Ch70 money looks good. There will be a better indication by the end of the week.

It has been confirmed that the senate president is in favor of the sales tax increase to 6.25%. Hopefully, we will have answers prior to Town Meeting.

Selectman Crowley was lobbying to get funds for Shaw Street, and possibly closing down Shaw Street. Medway has spoken to Franklin about closing the road and will most likely close it by the end of the week, provided Franklin has no serious issue with the road closing. The cost to repair all issues is approximately \$500,000.

Chairman Trindade and Selectman Crowley suggest that the town hire a grant writer and get any grants ready to go. There was also talk about having projects fast tracked to the TIP.

There being no further business to discuss, Selectman Foresto moved that the Board adjourn for the evening; Selectman Espinosa seconded; No discussion; all ayes 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Harrington
Executive Assistant
*Approved 6/1/09