



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

Cranston Rogers, Chair
Robert Wilson, Member
Leo O'Rourke, Member

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2014 – 5:30PM

DPS Office
155 Village Street
Medway, MA

Present: Robert Wilson, Chan Rogers, DPS Director Thomas Holder and Program Administrator Judi LaPan.

A motion was made by Chan Rogers to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:40 PM. Robert Wilson seconded, unanimous vote, 2-0.

91 Oakland Abatement Request:

The homeowner filled an above ground pool. The water showed evidence of iron and manganese (tainted reddish). They had to run a filter to clear the water in order to use the pool. Owner would like both water and sewer abated. The owner feels he is entitled to both abatements because the water quality was so poor and it used up a \$125.00 filter (picture provided of stained filter), the sewer as the water did not go down the sewer. The commissioners questioned why the water quality was like this. The Village Street well was down for improvements and the Oakland Street well has a higher level of iron and manganese being drawn from it. As this water is safe to use and would eventually settle and clear it was voted to deny the water abatement and abate only the sewer charges. A motion was made by Bob Wilson to abate sewer – deny water abatement. No filter reimbursement. Chan Rogers seconded the motion.

Water and Sewer Rates:

At the last meeting Tom Holder discussed utilizing the Abrahams Group. Since that time the decision has been made to use in-house staff. Melanie Phillips, Carol Pratt and Sarah Pawluczzonek will be developing the rate forecast. The Finance team feels confident they can recommend rates necessary to sustain operations as effectively as Abrahams Group and save the town money. Bob Wilson asks if the 3.7 million debt service is loaded into the FY 14-16 rate forecast. This information was provided to the Board of Selectmen. Then the BOS discussion/concerns escalated and it was discussed by the Board of Selectmen to not proceed with

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program. There is concern that the debt service costs associated with these water main replacements will create a dramatic increase in water rates. These projects were identified in the master plan as needing to be done. It is believed that rate increases due to debt service costs will be manageable. Decisions were made that over the course of 2 or 3 years we would reduce retained earnings and keep the rate increase 4.5% each year, which is a nominal increase. We will no longer have buffer come FY17, we may recommend an 8-8.5% increases. An additional consideration to the increase in rates is the need for a funding mechanism for DPS facility. Rates will be affected by the costs of the facility. The Finance team being tasked with capital projects is continuing.

Tom Holder says that by the next meeting scheduled for March 24th he should have some numbers for FY 16, 17 & 18. Bob asks if this is the right time to not use the Abraham Group where there are so many concerns. Tom says the model has been built so we are in a good position populating current information into it. Bob states he would like to play the devil's advocate. If we don't fund the \$3.7 million project what happens to the rates? The rates would remain lower but the water infrastructure would suffer and necessary repairs would be deferred much like they were in the past. This season Village & Adams water lines are being installed. The project has been advertised & bid. We are ready to start in June 2014. The cost is approximately 1.4 million. Next year Highland, Winthrop & Maple Street water mains will be built, with an approximate cost of 2.3 million. Centralized treatment is proposed for a filtration plant at the Village St Well – Big Project – smart to do, but can we do all at once? Should we defer for now, we have had quite a few water main breaks in Brentwood recently, Ellis Street, Coffee Street and Gorwin Drive. Improvements to this neighborhood are needed but will be considered for FY17. This is not unusual for the industry and is proportionate to the needs of Medway. We do not want to go backwards. We need to maintain regulations and requirements. The Town is in a good position but this is because we have been doing capital projects and need to continue being proactive. Bob recommends a water conservation program to help residents reduce water consumption, thus reducing their costs. Education & outreach – coordinate with recycle cart distribution?

Directors report:

- One of the biggest challenges is unaccounted water currently reported at 30%. We do not know where the water is going. The Water Division is working to figure this out. The current plan has the Town separated (valved off) in half – Two wells and a tank on either side. With the second SWMI Grant the state will pay \$35K and the Town will pay \$8K in-kind contribution. Kleinfelder will perform a data integrity evaluation.
- Capital budgets and Operational budgets are due to the Finance Committee within the next few weeks. We have been told to submit a level service budget.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th 5PM

Motion to adjourn Robert Wilson, Seconded by Chan Rogers 6:51 PM

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