



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES APPROVED 6/15/15

April 6, 2015
DPS Office
155 Village Street

Present: Robert Wilson, Chan Rogers, Leo O'Rourke DPS Director Thomas Holder Town Accountant Carol Pratt and Program Administrator Judi LaPan.

A motion was made by Bob Wilson to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:00 PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Carol Pratt was in attendance to present the FY16 Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Allocations. The Commissioners need to vote on FY16 Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Allocations. *Bob Wilson made a motion to approve the Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Indirect Cost Allocations as discussed. Leo O'Rourke seconds the motion. Unanimous. 3-0.*

Abatement Request - 10 Priscilla Road-Steven & Theresa Hodge. There was a silent leak in a toilet located in back of the house. The homeowners are requesting an abatement due to the financial hardship this high bill creates and the fact that they were unaware they had a leak until they received the high bill and a call from the town. They contacted a plumber and made repairs. This is a water and sewer account. They were billed for 8,450cf of water/sewer used. The leak represents approximately 4,128 cf of lost water. $4,128 \text{ cf} \times 7.48 = 30,877$ gallons of water was used for the quarter. $30,877 / 90 \text{ days} = 343$ gallons of water were used daily. If an abatement were granted bringing the usage down to an average of the last year or 4,322 cf, the value would be approximately \$639.54.

Robert Wilson makes a motion to reduce the difference of the water and sewer charges on their average bill and the last bill reflecting the leak owed by 50%. Leo O'Rourke seconds the motion. Unanimous. 3-0.

The listed matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent allowable by law.

Tom Holder discusses the 5 year Water & Sewer Rate Forecast. He is primarily looking toward FY16, but we use a 5 year rate study. Tom explains that when we went from semi-annual billing to quarterly billing the consumption numbers were a bit higher. This was to allow for the different bill cycles to be caught up so that all customers were billed through August. This allowed for all customers to be on the same bill cycle when we started quarterly billing. Now it appears that the numbers are down a bit. 10% to 15% of operating costs will be maintained for retained earnings. This will allow rates to be more controllable as we will use retained earnings to provide rate relief. This means that the rate increase will be less significant due to this relief. Each tier has a different rate increase. The increases will be as follows: Tier 1 users will see a 5% increase. Tier 2 users will see a 6% increase. Tier 3 users will see a 7% increase. Customers who conserve will be “rewarded” with the lowest increase. Bob Wilson asks if the proposed rates take into account the new projects and are the numbers built into the rates? Tom Holder says yes, ie: the Sewer Extension and Millstone Village. Bob Wilson also asks if the cost for the DPS Facility are worked into the rates? What numbers were used? We currently we have 3277 residential Water users and 163 Commercial users. We currently we have 2476 residential Sewer users and 146 Commercial users.

The rate study discussion will continue next month. The May rate hearing will be discussed in the beginning of June. The Commissioners would like rate comparisons from surrounding towns.

The Commissioners were planning to approve past minutes. Not all of the Commissioners have had an opportunity to review the minutes and will table approval until the next meeting.

Director Report:

Tom Holder informs the Commissioners that we have exceeded the threshold for iron and manganese. We can still use and run both the Village Street and Oakland Street wells however we need to make long term plans to reduce both per the DEP. The long term plan is centralized filtration. Bellingham just built two filtration plants. The DEP is recommending that we start planning now. Bob Wilson ask if the filtration will reduce the chlorine smell? Tom says no it will not. We still need to add chlorinator boosters so the residual stay where they need to be. We would need to find other alternatives to reduce the perceived chlorine smell, all of which are extremely costly.

The Water Main project is moving along. The bids were opened and it appears that Gravity will be awarded the contract. The project will start on Highland Street, then Winthrop Street, to Main Street to Lovering Street.

Water Conservation Discussion:

John Foresto approached Bob Wilson to discuss options for water conservation. Bob recommended a Toilet Rebate Program. Bob explains how the program works in other communities. As the Town is only allowed to draw a certain amount of water per day per DEP, this program would help preserve the Aquifer. Leo asks how do we know? Tom recommends this become an action item for the next meeting.

Tom reminds the Commissioners that Town Meeting is May 11th.

The next Water & Sewer Commissioners Meeting will be held May 4, 2015 at 5PM.

Bob Wilson makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50PM. Chan Rogers seconds.
Unanimous. 3-0.

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