



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2014
Tom Holder's Office
155 Village Street, Medway, MA

Present: Chan Rogers, Leo O'Rourke, Robert Wilson, Michael Boynton and Tom Holder

The Water/Sewer Commission meeting was motioned to start at 5:03p.m. by Robert Wilson. Leo O'Rourke seconded.

Abatements

29 Ellis Street: Leo O'Rourke motions to table until we look at meter and see if estimates are good (accurate) and that barn connection is okay. Meter was frozen over the winter. Bob Wilson seconded.
9 Little Tree: Will consider abating sewer if there is proof of repairs. No proof of what the problem is. Judi to contact resident again.

Officer's Discussion

As per the agenda a discussion ensued and the Commissioners feel they should change chairmanship every few years.

LO – Makes a motion that Robert Wilson becomes new Chairman. Chan Rogers Seconds motion. Unanimous vote, 3-0.

CRPCD Assessment Charges

TH – Discussed how our assessment went up significantly. It was questioned whether the old data was accurate? Tom said there had not been any significant changes that warrant these increases. The large increase in assessment charges was not anticipated. Tom would like to see Klienfelder's recommendations adopted sooner rather than later and would like to put them together. He wants all information to go through the DPW so we have all data, not just the bits and pieces. Tom states that all older data was from Chickenbrook and they now measure Medway's flow at the Black Swamp. The Black Swamp affects us in two ways. It was never metered previously and any I & I was attributed to Medway.

LO thinks we are being charged incorrectly; guilt by association.

TH – Says, not necessarily although he would like to see collection sampling done differently. Everything CRPCD has done has been at the request of the town. Doug Downing and Paul DeSimone are representatives of the town.

TH – Suggested it would be beneficial to meet with Paul and Doug and the Water/Sewer Commission of a quarterly basis.

LO – Does not believe they are working hard enough to represent Medway.

RW – Believes that we need to rely on the representatives more.

LO – Indicated that they are more than willing to help. Wastewater treatment plant is meeting all standards and following all protocol. He is upset by the additional costs of \$250,000 for O & M due to the calculation changes. He stated that we need to keep looking as to where the additional flow comes from.

TH – Would like to meet with CRPCD either October 1st or 2nd and is waiting to hear from Liz. Tom said Cheri always said that our data was very low. He does not want to raise a stink only to find out we had been being gifted by a lack of data.

RW – Would like to invite Doug Downing and Paul DeSimone to future meetings.

Approval of past meeting minutes

Deferred. Leo does not remember seeing the minutes. Chan needs a hardcopy.

Directors Report

Compliance Report and Cover Letter:

TH – Stated that compliance plan is being put together to meet all water requirements and that we are doing all things correctly. Currently we have the town valved off and will shut pumps down and only use the tank. Readings will be done at 2:00AM and 4:00AM while the town is being valved off.

CR – Said that we spent the money to put in new meters and the newspaper reporting is “sophomoric.”

TH – Said that he had good dealings with Zack Comeau after the coliform hit and thinks he should educate Zack on the water loss also.

MB – felt intuitively that none of this made sense since the meters are new and accurate and there are accurate tank volumes. He said that you are not going to find 100,000 gallons of water daily. He would like to see if we can put meters at the tank instead of volume, like we currently do.

Lo – Asked if it could be as simple as meters being read as gallons instead of cubic feet. Relying on electronic data is one approach. Looking for missing water requires a systematic, detailed approach evaluating accounts and pulling meters.

CR – Said that we also have 100 year old pipes. Could we possibly have illegal connections?

MB – Will be putting together an analysis of staffing levels. He feels we need to do more sewer maintenance and a contractor to do preventative maintenance. We should also have preventative maintenance on the water side since we are running a public water supply. Water quality is mission #1. Mike feels we are challenged by having separate treatment facilities. We need to do more hydrant maintenance and gate valve maintenance. He feels we also need more staff. He said that no one wants to increase rates, but we need to make sure that what we provide is top quality as we are stewards of the water system.

TH – Made a motion to plan the next meeting for October 27, 2014 at 5:00p.m.

The Water/Sewer Commission meeting was motioned to close by Bob Wilson. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Judi LaPan
Program Administrator