



TOWNSEND WATER DEPARTMENT
540 Main Street West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474

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Michael MacEachern, *Chairman*
Paul L. Rafuse,
Water Superintendent

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WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2016 - 5:30P.M.

Water Department 540 Main Street, Meeting Room

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- 1.1 MM called the meeting to order at 5:30P.M., 540 Main Street
- 1.2 Roll call showed Members Present: Michael MacEachern (MM) Chairman, Nathan Mattila (NM) Vice-Chair.
Guest Present: Paul Rafuse (PR), Superintendent, Town Administrator James Kreidler (JK) and, Selectmen Gordon Clark (GC).
- 1.3 MM announced that the meeting is being tape recorded
- 1.4 Chairman's additions or deletions. None
- 1.5 Review correspondence. None

II. APPOINTMENTS:

- 2.1

III. MEETING BUSINESS:

- 3.1 Discuss notification by vendor of CPA firm hired by the Town Administrator to investigate all purchases made by the Water Department.

JK stated during the annual audit the auditors had questions about meter purchases and the scraping of meters. This was the result of a Red Flag and went on to describe the red flag process. JK further stated that the Red Flag came in as a result of the investigation about 2½ years ago because there has not been any scrap metal declared as surplus since. Jk went on to state that during the annual audit by Melanson/Heath who sold the Red Flag system to the Town they stated that this was something that should be looked at deeper and it should be someone independent of them. Several names were brought up. Eric Kinshurf was one of them and because it is coming as the result of a Red Flag it shouldn't be discussed with the Water Department. GC stated that as a Board of Selectmen member he knows nothing about the Red Flag system and that its designed specifically as a confidential service the Town purchased and that JK is doing his job in pursuing the matter and with all due respect if he knew nothing about it there is no reason for the Water Commissioners to know. JK stated that this is not information that is coming from him. It is being requested from an independent firm. JK stated he wasn't aware of the issue until PR called Selectmen Cindy King (CK) about concerns of an investigation and under what authority was the Town Administrator (TA) doing this and, that PR had directed his vendors not to cooperate. GC stated his concerns with PR directing vendors not to cooperate with a duly authorized purchasing official and he views that as a serious issue and that PR should use the proper chain of command by bring any questions or concerns to the TA and/or the Board of Selectmen. PR stated his chain of command is the Board of Water Commissioners and that if someone is requesting the Water Department's financial records he would bring it to his boards attention. GC advised the Board of Water Commissioners that until PR spoke with the TA about the matter he may not want to make any further statements. MM stated that PR hasn't said anything that he shouldn't have said. PR asked for a statement from the TA of why he is requesting this information. JK stated he couldn't because it's a Red Flag matter. JK stated that the Water Department's financials are public information regardless of whether the Commissioners advised

PR to cooperate or not that they are required to produce the information that is the law. PR stated he understood that but, needs to make sure it's a legitimate request actually being made by the TA. JK stated that was a fair statement but, that once a Red Flag comes in he has to follow procedure and the matter shouldn't be public. PR stated that with instruction from the Board of Water Commissioners he would contact the vendor the next day authorizing them to release any information necessary.

IV. COMMISSIONERS UPDATES AND REPORTS. None

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V. WATER SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATES AND REPORTS. None

VI. OFFICE UPDATES AND REPORTS.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MM adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Rafuse, Superintendent