



TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT
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**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 16, 2013**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. James K. Carter, Chairman
Mr. Glen S. Searle, Commissioner

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Mr. Timothy K. Connelly

EWWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held a Special Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in the conference room at the Edgartown Waste Water Treatment Facility, located at 330 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, Mass. At 2:00 p.m., Chairman James K. Carter called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSS/VOTE: REQUESTS TO ABATE/REFUND ANNUAL SEWER BILLS.

Administrative Assistant Pia Webster explained that with the issuance of the FY13 sewer bills had come many questions from customers regarding the numbers of outlets to drain (OTDs) they had been billed for. Where there was a discrepancy between the Department's records and the customer's impression, a crew member was sent out to inspect the property and count the drains. Today, the Board was meeting to consider any necessary adjustments.

As required by Section 8 of Article IX of the *Rules and Regulations*, each customer had provided his/her request in writing. Background materials also included the permits upon

which staff had based their OTD count; copies of the annual bills; and inspection reports in the cases of tie-ins occurring after July 1, 2012.

Alex Alexander, 138 Cooke Street, Map 20C, Lot 38.2 (Acct S0776). Mrs. Webster related that until recently Mr. Alexander had not paid the bills for his office himself. So he had not noticed he was paying for four OTDs when, in fact, his work space had only two. Operator Dale Morgan inspected the premises and confirmed this.

Waste Water Commissioner Glen S. Searle made a motion to grant Alex Alexander's request to reduce by two the number of OTDs on his account. Chairman Carter provided a second. The Chairman asked if Mr. Alexander was permitted to pursue being refunded for the previous years when he paid for four OTDs instead of two. Mrs. Webster replied that he could only apply for a refund for the previous fiscal year.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Karen Altieri, 10 East Jenney Way, Map 20A, Lot 119.4I (Acct S0758). Admin Assistant Webster reported that Ms. Altieri had called the Department office to say that she had always been charged for eight OTDs and that each year one was always abated. A check of the permit showed an addition error by the contractor; her unit, which is identical to all but one of the other units in her development, has seven OTDs. Her records have been changed.

Commissioner Searle made a motion to grant Karen Altieri's request to reduce by one the number of OTDs on record for Acct No S0758, reducing her FY13 sewer bill by \$65.00. Chairman Carter provided a second, and motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Dennis J. Anderson, Sr., 83 Martha's Road, Map 28, Lot 126 (Acct S1071). Mr. Anderson had telephoned to report that his house contained eight OTDs and not the eleven he had been billed for, said Mrs. Webster. She continued that when the original permit was checked, an error in addition was discovered. In fact, the fixtures checked off added up to eight, not eleven. So his annual bill ought to have been \$520.00, not \$715.00.

Further, Mr. Anderson had not tied into the sewer system until October 2, 2012. With the system available to him for 271 out of the 365 days of the fiscal year (or 74.2 percent), his bill should thus be reduced to \$385.84.

Commissioner Searle made a motion to reduce the number of OTDs in Acct S1071 from eleven to eight and to prorate that account's FY13 sewer bill for 271 out of the 365-day billing period, bringing the final adjusted bill to \$385.84. Chairman Carter provided a second.

It was asked if Mr. Anderson's bill would then be \$520.00 in FY14. Yes, answered Mrs. Webster. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Andrew B. Donnellan, Jr., 28 Dark Woods Road, Map 21, Lot 124.34 (Acct S0822). Theresa Donnellan had informed staff that the property had not been tied into the system until late last year. This was confirmed by checking the grinder pump installation papers, showing the inspection date to be December 4, 2012. Prorating the annual FY13 sewer bill of \$520.00 for 208 of the 365-day fiscal year, the Donnellans would owe \$296.35 instead.

Commissioner Searle made a motion to prorate Acct S0822's FY13 sewer bill for 208 out of the 365-day billing period, bringing the adjusted bill to \$296.35. Chairman Carter provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Benjamin L. Hall, 40 Main Street, Map 20D, Lot 198 (Acct S0688). Admin Assistant Webster related that Mr. Hall had written to the Department, claiming that water service had been cut off to 40 Main Street for more than a year. Staff had confirmed with Lindsey Mercier of the Water Department that the water had been turned off at the street on January 12, 2012 and had remained off, and the meeting packet included a copy of the work order. Under Section 8 of Article IX of the *Rules and Regulations*, Mr. Hall's bills could be abated in full.

Commissioner Seale made a motion as follows: to abate in full the annual FY13 sewer charge of \$130.00 associated with Acct S0688, 40 Main Street. Chairman Carter provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Gregory A. Jones, 39 West Tisbury Road, Map 20C, Lot 42 (Acct S0183). Mr. Jones had called to say that his house had five OTDs, though he had been charged for nine. Apparently, said Mrs. Webster, a garage that had been permitted had never been built. So Jeremy Osborn inspected the property on May 10 and confirmed what the customer had claimed.

Commissioner Searle made the following motion: to grant Gregory Jones' request to reduce by four the number of OTDs on record for Acct S0183, reducing his FY13 sewer bill by \$260.00. Chairman Carter provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

John M. Luke, 17 Road to the Plains, Map 29, Lot 114 (Acct S0893). It was decided that Mr. Luke's case would be handled in the next meeting, since there were no background materials to support the customer's argument that he was not tied into the system.

John W. Magnuson, 10 Magnuson Way, Map 20C, Lot 159 (Acct S0579). Admin Assistant Webster related that Mr. Magnuson had two structures on his lot. Each used to have its own account, with the larger structure having eight OTDs, and the smaller, five.

When the accounts were combed through last winter, Mrs. Webster continued, the two accounts were merged. However, the five OTDs belonging to the smaller building appeared to be part of a later permit that was part of the larger building. So five more

OTDs were added to the account. Mr. Magnuson requested in writing that the five extra OTDs be removed. Department staff inspected the premises on Monday, May 13, to confirm the number of OTDs.

Commissioner Searle made a motion to grant John Magnuson's request to reduce by five the number of OTDs on record for Acct S0579, bringing the amount due down to \$845.00. Chairman Carter offered a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

David J. Mello, 15 Road to the Plains, Map 29, Lot 115 (Acct S0818). Mrs. Webster related that Mr. Mello's property was tied into the system after the start of FY13, on January 4, 2013. So the Department had delivered sewer service to him for 48.49 percent of the fiscal year. His FY13 sewer bill was \$520.00; 48.49 percent of that is \$252.15.

Commissioner Searle made the following motion: to prorate Acct S0818's FY13 sewer bill for 177 out of the 365-day billing period, bring the adjusted bill to \$252.15. Chairman Carter provided a second.

Mr. Carter wanted to know how exactly staff determined the date a customer tied into the system. Mrs. Webster showed him the grinder pump installation papers from the Mello account file, which clearly showed an inspection date of January 4, 2013. "We use the inspection date," said the Admin Assistant. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Constance Scott, 42 Martha's Road, Map 28, Lot 150 (Acct S1038). Admin Assistant Webster detailed the case of Constance Scott, who had already paid her annual bill when it occurred to her that she probably qualified for the hardship exemption rate. Checking with the Assessor's Office, Mrs. Webster had verified that Mrs. Scott did indeed qualify for the \$50.00 annual rate provided for in Section 9 of Article IX of the *Rules and Regulations*. Since Mrs. Scott's check had already been deposited, the Treasurer would have to refund the difference between what she had paid (\$455.00) and the lower rate (\$50.00).

Commissioner Searle made the following motion: to issue a refund of \$405.00 to Constance Scott, Acct S1038, because she qualified for the Department's hardship exemption rate of \$50.00 annually. Chairman Carter provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A brief discussion ensued about the pile of metal detritus behind the garage toward the back of the treatment facility property. Commissioner Searle suggested that once the new roll-on containers were delivered, the old ones could be loaded with the junk so it could be hidden away behind the building.

Chairman Carter asked that staff find out what other waste water departments, particularly on the Cape, charged for tie-in fees, inspection fees and house-call fees. (The

Admin Assistant offered to make the calls.) When it came to raising sewer charges, Mrs. Webster thought they ought to go no higher than the rate of inflation. The economic recovery could hardly be characterized as robust, she noted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Carter asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Searle offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote, and Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,



Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN


James K. Carter, Chairman
Glen S. Searle, Commissioner