

Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of August 13, 2013

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. James E. Kelleher, Chairman
Mr. John S. Lovewell, Commissioner
Mr. Robert Burnham

EWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Fred R. Domont, Superintendent
Mr. Shane A. Ben David, Foreman

Meeting Called to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kelleher at 4:07pm

MINUTES

Last month's minutes will be discussed at the next commissioners meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Expenses for proposed garage project (Tata & Howard)

Bob Burnham discussed payment due for work Tata & Howard performed even though the project was abandoned. They did some prep work. Mr. Domont said he spoke with the USDA and they would cover the design costs. Tata and Howard will submit a bill and the town accountant will then send a bill to the USDA and they would be paid monthly. Gazette bills were paid out of pocket.

Model Verification contract with Tata & Howard

Commissioner Lovewell asked if there was a plan to verify the model.

Oak Bluffs is chlorinating their water.

Superintendent Domont stated that the reason for the model performance was to see what the outcome would be of running off the Oak Bluffs Standpipe. The engineers came back with their information, using their methodology and computer models (the standard they use). They said that, based on these computer models and information, we would get “x” amount of gallons at this hydrant running off the Oak Bluffs standpipe. That’s what they came up with and that is what we paid them for, at a cost of approximately \$5000. This is their professional opinion and we got what we paid for. We asked them to do a feasibility study to run off the Oak Bluffs standpipe and the cost for doing such a model.

Commissioner Lovewell stated the hydrant they chose was at the corner of South Water and Main Street which is a relatively short distance from the Edgartown standpipe. Commissioner Lovewell stated that he believes that the South Water Street hydrant will deliver a far greater volume of water from the Edgartown Tank than if it was being fed by the Oak Bluffs tank.

Mr. Lovewell asked if a field test had been done. Shane BenDavid answered that a test had not been completed as yet. He said that pressure loggers are supposed to be put in place when we do the test run and that will verify the fire flows and pressures. Once we feel comfortable with Oak Bluffs water, we will do our test run and we can do the pressure loggers, which is a computer software program that hooks up to the hydrants. The actual information comes to us and we will forward it on to Tata & Howard. This is all a part of the contract. Mr. Domont said we can’t have them finish the letter agreement until we can accept water from Oak Bluffs. We are not putting Oak Bluffs water into our system because at the present time they have to chlorinate the Lagoon pond well fields because of the runoff situation there.

Mr. Lovewell proposed that he write a letter to the Oak Bluffs Water District informing them that Edgartown will not be painting the standpipe this fall. Mr. Domont responded that a letter is not necessary since he has already contacted them to let them know that no painting will be done this fall. Mr. Lovewell suggested that if we hire a SCADA firm to handle the radio signal from the Oak Bluffs tank to our office, or should one be done from Edgartown’s tank to their office which would be more economical. Mr. Domont said we would have to talk to our instrumentation people, AD Instruments. Oak Bluffs has a wireless system but a different brand of SCADA. It all runs on different frequencies.

USDA Grant

Mr. Lovewell said the commissioners, to his knowledge, have never seen the list of expenses that total \$900,000. Fred said spreadsheets and studies were prepared and available and given to the commissioners.

Mr. Domont explained the process of a loan versus a grant to the commissioners. We didn't have our financial house in order since the town said we owed them \$300,000 and put this money back in free cash – we didn't know how much money we had at the time. We finally focused on one project at a time and we had gotten a figure of \$160,000 to build a three bay garage estimated through a change order with Barbato Construction Company. We only got one bid. With delays with meetings, we ran out of time. Fred called Robert Our Company and asked why they did not bid. Mr. Our said the project got past him and he was not aware of it. Paul Cote contacted Barbato and Dankris Co. and was told they would lose money coming here in the summer. It would cost more to build in the summer than we had available funds left over from the changeover. They also had so much work and were too busy to come to the island in the summer. We would not have the time to complete the project in the Federal government's fiscal year as it ends September 30, 2013. Fred called back the USDA and spoke with Ron Koontz and asked him if we could spend the money to purchase a bunch of water mains, fire hydrant replacement program and replace water mains in town and do that kind of activity. Mr. Koontz said no. Mr. Domont said that perhaps we could pay back one of our non-USDA loans, perhaps on North Water Street.

Mr. Burnham said perhaps grants may or may not come once we go through the process. Their fiscal year starts in October and they don't know what their budget will be for the coming year. Mr. Lovewell said in the future the commissioners should get involved in the grant process.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lovewell motioned, Mr. Kelleher seconded and the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dean
Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

James E. Kelleher, Chairman

Robert L. Burnham, Water Commissioner

John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner