

EDGARTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT

MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. James Kelleher, Chairman
Mr. Robert Burnham
Mr. John Lovewell

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Fred Domont, Superintendent
Mr. Shane Ben David, Chief Operator

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MR. Lovewell made a motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 2012 and April 13, 2012. Mr. Burnham seconded that motion. The motion was carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. STANDPIPE PAINTING PROJECT

The commissioners briefly discussed some of the logistics of painting the Standpipe. Some of the concerns were the best time of year to partake in painting and how the changing of the feed line to Oak Bluffs would work. Mr. Lovewell stated he would like to set up a request for proposal for the painting of the standpipe. The Commissioners agreed to allow Mr. Lovewell to proceed.

PROPOSED WATER BILLING AND COLLECTION ISSUE

Mr. Burnham questioned whether the concerns the department has with the MUNIS billing system had been forwarded to the town collector and if the

Collector could contact the Water Departments billing systems representative to see if the billing programs are compatible at all. Burnham then suggested that the new Administrative Assistant coming on board should be more interactive with the MUNIS billing program and should interact with the Collector and the Information Technology manager on any MUNIS issue questioned.

Mr. Domont made it clear that he thought MUNIS would be a mistake for the Water Department and asserted that MUNIS was not user friendly and that MUNIS is structured more for large water utilities and Departments of Public Works.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

Mr. Domont explained that he narrowed the search down to seven applicants he thought would fit the job description. Out of the seven there were two that Mr. Domont felt would best fit the Departments needs. Mr. Domont wanted to meet with Chairman Kelleher to make a final decision. Chairman Kelleher agreed to meet the following day.

III NEW BUSINESS

A. MUNIS UTILITY BILLING PROGRAM DEMO RESULTS

Superintendent Domont reported that nobody from the water department had attended the MUNIS demo.

B. TOWN LAND UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Lovewell started out by talking about the Shurtleff land and questioned if the only thing holding back the water department from selling the land was finding another piece of land to replace it. Mr. Domont replied by saying not only do we have to replace that land under, Article 97, but the commissioners have to agree on what to do with the Shurtleff property. Mr. Burnham thinks selling the Shurtleff property once property values rise may be a way to pay off debt the department had accrued. Mr. Domont suggested using the proceeds to help fund a new well.

Mr. Lovewell then brought up the Machacket property and suggested we outline the zone 1 to look into subdividing that property in the future. He then went on to the Wintucket property suggesting we proceed with proposing a land swap with the State for a future well sight. Mr. Burnham wanted to know the process on moving ahead with proposing a land swap with the state. Mr. Domont explained that the he had been to the statehouse in the past to discuss this land swap issue and the people he spoke with are no longer there. “ We would have to start over” he said. Mr. Burnham urged that we look into this further.

C. UPGRADES FOR WATER DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Mr. Domont recommended that he would like to create an Assistant Superintendent position as well as upgrade the department’s assistant position to a grade equal to or higher than the wastewater assistant. Domont feels the water departments assistant performs responsibilities that are equal to the wastewater departments assistant. Mr. Burnham recommended the commissioners meet with the personnel board to discuss these issues

The commissioners then discussed the Assistant Superintendent position. Mr. Burnham affirmed that we need to present more to the personnel board. “ We need a job description, we need specifics” he said. Burnham suggested That the Superintendent work on this before we meet with the personnel board. Chairman Kelleher recommended the commissioners to move on the upgrades.

D. ENTERPRISE FUND

Mr. Domont suggested the water commissioners look over the information he presented to them.

E. SIGNATURE AUTHOIZATION UPDATE

Superintendent Domont informed the commissioner about a letter sent by the Town Accountant informing him that the commissioners need to vote on a signature authorization for the superintendant to sign warrants and commitments. Domont also affirmed that there would have to be a vote each year.

Mr. Burnham made a motion for the Commissioners to sign payroll and for the Superintendent to sign all other financials. Commissioner Lovewell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

The Commissioners briefly discussed what issues to be put on the next meeting agenda. One issue Mr. Lovewell brought to attention was the wellness issue. Chairman Kelleher said “ we need to talk about the wellness issue in the next meeting.” Mr. Domont asked” why do we have to deal with it?” Kelleher replied “ because the personnel board required it and we agreed to it.” Commissioner Burnhan added we need to come to a conclusion. Mr. Domont was upset because he felt he didn’t do anything that was improper. Chairman Kelleher thought it would benefit the whole department. Domont then went on to say he feels that the water department would benefit more from a seminar that actually pertained to the job, rather than a psychology course. “That’s coming from the superintendent, as commissioners we have to deal with the environment” Mr. Burnham declared. Mr. Domont added he was upset because the town has presumed him guilty before proven innocent. . “That’s dead wrong” he said.” It’s awful how this town has treated me, I have not been treated fairly or equally to other employees.” It’s all based on drama and hearsay and I am very upset about it and I don’t feel I should pay any kind of price for things that have been done to me, that are improper, mismanaged, illegal and I am very resentful and very disgusted with the way that I’ve been treated.” The conversation wound down.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Kelleher made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovewell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Shane BenDavid
Chief Operator

APROVED:
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Chairman Kelleher

Commissioner Burnham

Commissioner Lovwell