

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF July 10, 2012**

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

EWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Fred R. Domont, Water Superintendent
Lindsey Mercier, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There were no minutes available at this time to be approved.

Mr. Domont would like to thank the people who went the extra mile while the Water Department was short handed Shelia Ben David, Shane Ben David, Felicia Cheney, Patty Dean and Gail Avakian. They have all been a great help to Mr. Domont.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Personnel Issues:

Mr. Domont stated he had some comments he would like to make for the record. Mr. Domont said that since the personnel issues started back in May 2010 his rights as a town employee and individual have been seriously violated on many occasions. Mr. Domont would like to state for the record some of the documented examples of the violations. After reading off a list of violations, Mr. Domont stated that he would pursue these violations in a proper legal matter if need be. Mr. Domont stated theses issues, caused by a former disgruntled employee, could be put behind him and that he will move on. Mr. Domont would not like to discuss any of these issues pertaining to this whole scenario dating back to May 2010 unless it goes directly to his lawyer. Mr. Domont is disappointed in the way the whole matter has been handled and that it has been bogus from day one.

Munis Billing:

There are no new updates.

RFP/Standpipe:

A discussion was held regarding request for proposals to have the standpipe painted and upgraded. Mr. Lovewell drafted an RFP proposal and presented RFP's from the Gazette for examples. Mr. Domont said Haley and Ward are very anxious to try and get involved and Mr. Lovewell said he was anxious for them to be involved also. Mr. Domont would like to recommend that they make a short list of engineers to send RFP's to, certain engineering firms that the Commissioners think would qualify instead of sending out a general RFP otherwise the Commissioners are going to have to go through firms that don't qualify to do the painting.

The Commissioners would like to have it completed in the fall of 2013.

USDA Update:

Mr. Domont has been working on reconciling the funds. Some headway has been made but, is still not done. Mr. Domont stated that we need to have a plan by September to submit to the USDA or the rest of the grant money will no longer be available to the Water Department. Mr. Domont would like to submit projects to the Commissioners but cannot do so until he knows how much grant money is available.

Minutes from Personnel Meeting 05-09-12:

Mr. Lovewell was upset that his review of Mr. Domont was not approved by the Personnel Board. Mr. Burnham, as chairman, in the past had done the review. Mr. Burnham was not available to do the review so Mr. Lovewell completed the review as he felt he was qualified to do so. The Commissioners were all in agreement that Mr. Lovewell's review was acceptable and that any of the Commissioner's should be able to perform the review. Mr. Kelleher suggested sending the Personnel Board a letter inquiring as to why the review was not approved.

Water Dept. Land:

No update at this time.

Assistant Superintendent / Dept. Assistant Articles:

Mr. Domont never got a clear go ahead to upgrade the Department Assistant from a grade 4 to a grade 5 which would be comparable to the Wastewater Department. A discussion was held pertaining to changing the Chief Operator position to an Assistant Superintendent position. Mr. Burnham stated he thought the commissioners had approved this position already. A motion was made at the January 24th, 2012 meeting to approve establishing the Assistant Superintendent position. The motion carried unanimously. Further discussion was had about pay grades and steps that would pertain to the Assistant Superintendent position.

SCADA System:

Mr. Lovewell has a list of screens that he would like to give to Mr. Ben David who is not present. There is a device at the pump stations that measures the depth to ground water levels. Mr. Lovewell would like a device that reads the elevation of the water tables. Mr. Lovewell would like to contact the manufacturer about getting said device.

NEW BUSINESS

Petty Cash:

Mr. Domont would like to have \$50.00 in petty cash. The reason is that if a customer comes to pay his water bill and has cash the Water Department has no means to make change. Mr. Burnham made a motion to have petty cash not to exceed \$50.00 and that it is kept in a fireproof safe. Mr. Kelleher seconded the motion.

Usage Abatement Requests:

Catherine Hitchings (Acct 0638-033) had submitted an abatement request for the Usage Charge during the billing period of October 15, 2011 through April 16, 2012. Their April read was higher than normal and when their plumber went to investigate found an underground joint had broken and was the source of the leak.

Mrs. Hitchings is asking for an abatement of 30 percent of the 203.50 Usage Charge for the billing period ending April 16, 2012, reducing that charge to 142.45. The \$125.00 Base Charge has already been paid.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mr. Kelleher, the Board approved the request by Mrs. Hitchings for 30 percent abatement.

Base Charge Abatement Requests:

Ladislav Navratil (Acct 058-162) had submitted an abatement request for the Base Charge of \$125.00 during the billing period of October 15, 2011 through April 16, 2012. Mr. Navratil disconnected his town water line in October. The meter has been removed and no water has been used since October 2011.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mr. Kelleher, the Board approved the request by Mr. Navratil for \$125.00 Base Charge abatement.

Jessica Desquenne (Acct 036-555) had submitted an abatement request for the Base Charge of \$125.00 during the billing period of October 15, 2011 through April 16, 2012. Ms. Desquenne's service had been shut off in February of 2011.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mr. Kelleher, the Board approved the request by Ms. Desquenne for \$125.00 Base Charge abatement.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Kelleher asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Burnham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kelleher. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote, and the Chairman adjourned the Regular Meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Mercier
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

James E. Kelleher, Chairman

John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner

Robert L. Burnham, Water Commissioner