

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert L. Burnham, Chairman
Mr. William R. Erickson, Water Commissioner
Mr. John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner

EWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Fred R. Domont, Water Superintendent
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

EDGARTOWN SELECTMEN PRESENT:

Mr. Michael J. Donaroma, Selectman
Ms. Margaret O. Serpa, Selectmen
Mr. Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Ms. Pamela M. Dolby, Town Administrator
Ms. Kimberly G. Kane, Town Accountant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. William Waterway, Edgartown Resident

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held a Special Meeting within the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Edgartown on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fred B. Morgan, Jr. Meeting Room at the Peter O. Bettencourt Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:00 p.m., Chairman Robert L. Burnham called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION: USDA LOAN EXPENDITURE DISCREPANCIES.

“And the end of the story is ...” began Chairman Arthur Smadbeck of the Board of Selectmen. He continued, “We understand the bills have been submitted.” [*For background, refer to pages 1-2 of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2011; pages 1-3 of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 31, 2011; and pages 4-5 of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2011.*]

Town Accountant Kimberly G. Kane confirmed that the bills associated with the second phase of the USDA loan that she had listed as not having been submitted for reimbursement had been pulled, copied and shipped to the agency. “We haven’t heard back,” she said.

Ms. Kane also related that Ronald M. Koontz, Area Loan Manager of the USDA’s West Wareham office, had suggested that her office go back to 2007 to maximize the number of eligible bills submitted. Among the materials sent, she said, were some invoices from Barbato Construction Co., Inc. that Mr. Koontz had not seen earlier, plus some invoices from Tata & Howard Incorporated previously unknown to him.

“It’s all news to me,” remarked Superintendent Fred R. Domont. Ms. Kane repeated that she had not heard back yet from Mr. Koontz about reimbursement. Mr. Domont stated that the only way to get to the bottom of the discrepancy was to hire an accountant or auditor to sort it all out.

“For me this has been very confusing and difficult,” the Superintendent went on. He reported, further, that Tata & Howard Incorporated had been paid from the *first* phase of the loan, not the second. “As far as I can see,” he insisted, “everything has been submitted.”

Responding to Mr. Domont’s call for hiring an accountant, Mr. Smadbeck said, “I think we have a Town Accountant who has been working with the Department on this... There’s no need to hire anyone.” Chairman Burnham stated that he hoped such a hiring *would* occur. “We might hire someone *independently*,” he said. Ms. Kane stepped in: “We’re jumping the cart until we hear from Ron [Koontz].”

The Superintendent said that what he wanted to know was why the Water Department had not been copied on the letter and the materials that had been sent out to the USDA. Because it came from the Water Department, replied Mr. Smadbeck. “We *were* copied,” said Chairman Burnham, “It came from *us*.” Sorry, said Mr. Domont.

The Town Accountant related that the only question that remained was the matter of the \$58,000 associated with the Chapter 21E cleanup that the USDA might or might not allow. “That’s my only question,” she said.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Burnham asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Erickson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovewell. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote, and Chairman Burnham adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN**

Robert L. Burnham, Chairman

William R. Erickson, Water Commissioner

John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner