



Town of Provincetown

Meeting of the

WATER & SEWER BOARD

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Veterans Memorial Community Center, Multi-purpose Room
2 Mayflower Street, Provincetown, MA

Board Members Present: Jonathan Sinaiko (chair), Kathleen Meads, Sacha Richter, Moe Van Dereck, Kevin Kuechler, Mark Collins, and Bill Worthington (arrived 3:10)

Board Members Absent: Shannon Corea

Other attendees: Cody Salisbury, Dana Faris and Anna Michaud

Recorder: Susan Leonard

Call to Order: Mr. Sinaiko, acting as chair, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 –Recommitment of Delinquent Water and Sewer Bills:

Discussion:

Ms. Michaud: The first item is the recommitment of delinquent sewer and water bills. This happens every year. There will be a lien on their taxes. The material I have was run on July 21, 2014 by the tax collector. Anything that has been paid since then will be taken off the list. There are some elderly on the list. They are in the tax deferral program. They are notified that their tax has been deferred. I always check for the 41C exemption for Truro. Currently, there is no one who meets the criteria. Truro is separate. We are just doing Provincetown now.

Motion: *That we accept the water and sewer recommitment for Provincetown.*

Motion: Jonathan Sinaiko **Seconded:** Kathie Meads **Vote:** 3 – 0 – 0

Ms. Michaud: I also need a motion for the Truro recommitment of delinquent water bills.

Mr. Kuechler: *That we accept the recommitment of delinquent water bills for Truro.*

Motion: Kevin Kuechler **Seconded:** Kathie Meads **Vote:** 6 – 0 – 0

Agenda Item 2 - Schedule Future Working Session To Review Water & Sewer Rules and Regulations

Discussion:

Mr. Salisbury: I know we have talked about it for awhile. I would like to schedule a working session to discuss the revisions to our rules and regulations. Can we target a date and dedicate an hour to hash it out. It is best to have as many possible board members present. I would like to get it resolved as quickly as we can. It may take a couple meetings.

Ms. Meads: I would like to be around for that. I will be gone from October 11 to October 27.

Mr. Kuechler: If we could do it before September 21st, it would be great.

Mr. Salisbury: Then Thursday, September 18th at 3:00 will be good.

Ms. Michaud: This still will be a public meeting. I won't add anything to the agenda unless it is an emergency.

Agenda Item 3 –Review of Minutes for 7/17/14:

Discussion

Ms. Michaud: The minutes are not ready to be reviewed. I would like to postpone that until the next meeting.

Motion: That we postpone review of the minutes of July 17, 2014 until the next meeting.

Motion: Jonathan Sinaiko **Seconded:** Moe Van Dereck **Vote:** 7 – 0 – 0

Agenda Item 4 –Unanticipated business that may legally come before the board requiring immediate action:

Discussion:

Mr. Salisbury: This came up this week. Over the weekend there was a leak in the service line on Sandy Hill Lane off of Route 6. This area is served by a common two inch line. There are approximately 5 residential structures; some of them are multiple units. The area has been problematic in the past dating back to the late 1980s. The draft letter is to strongly encourage them to upgrade the service because we are under a State mandate to have a 10% unaccounted for water by this year. My letter indicates that the only other option we have to their upgrading the service is for us to install a master meter and divide the bill equally among the residents there. This leak looks

like it has been going on for some time. It was about 175 feet down the lane. This is a private road.

Ms. Michaud: I was told that the big association is not part of this.

Mr. Salisbury: It doesn't make sense to have multiple meters at Route 6. We can't have 9 water lines running down the road either. This was done in the late 1970s. There is a 4 inch service exclusively for and paid by the condo association. There is a 2 inch line to the other 4 structures. If the other properties could seek a service off of the 4 inch service from the condo association then they could have a 4 inch service to their houses.

Ms. Meads: Before a letter like this goes out do we know how many water accounts there are? It will have to be very clear. Is it meters or accounts? I suggest that the letter go before Town Counsel. We have to be sure we have a legal standing for this. And I think when we discuss our rules regulations that it is consistent with them.

Mr. Salisbury: This one of the reasons I want to review our rules and regulations. Also, the Town has the right to meter the water.

Mr. Kuechler: I think a slightly different language should be used instead of saying they have "no choice". Can we say instead that we could compel everyone to install their own line? It would be more expensive and it would be in line with our own regulatory ability. Allowing them not to have separate lines is a favor.

Mr. Sinaiko: Could we install a monitor meter on the main? Did any one complain about low water pressure out there?

Mr. Salisbury: We couldn't service all those meters on one 2 inch tap. It would require two 2 inch taps. The other option is to install a monitor meter rather than using it as a billing meter. I want the issue addressed as soon as possible.

Mr. Kuechler: You may want to add to the letter that "given the quality of the pipe it is likely to happen again.

Mr. Salisbury: The 4 inch line was installed in 2007. It is a private line. It would be possible to T off it and provide better pressure. I don't want our staff accessing meter vaults in the highway.

Mr. Sinaiko: It would be to their benefit to negotiate with the condo association. Can we guide them in that direction?

Ms. Meads: We should start a file on Sandy Hill Lane, not just the individual accounts, so we can document everything that has happened over the years.

Mr. Sinaiko: So, the consensus is to write this letter, ease up on the wording to perhaps say “we are reviewing the regulations to determine what our options are”, show it Town Counsel and send it off.

Motion: *To authorize the water superintendent to send out this letter using our suggestions and to show it to Town Counsel.*

Motion: Jonathan Sinaiko **Seconded:** Bill Worthington **Vote:** 7 – 0 – 0

Agenda Item 5 - Statements From The Board:

Discussion:

Mr. Worthington: At our last meeting we denied an application for water service at Arrowhead Road, I am curious if there has been any pushback?

Mr. Salisbury: There hasn't. I informed the Health Department it was denied. The owner knew it was a problematic area. The owner has received the decision. I conferred with the DPW of Truro to confirm we could get a meter pit on the road and not on private property.

Mr. Kuechler: Just to show the pressure towns are under to reduce unaccounted water and to support Cody's efforts, Medway was spotlighted by the Globe for having 24% unaccounted water. Whatever we can do we should do it.

Mr. Salisbury: Last year we were at just over 17%. It is a challenge. We are not the only town that has these problems. We have discussed district metering zones which are costly. I am installing bi-directional metering at our standpipes so we can begin to detect leakage in certain zones of the system in the early morning hours. We can monitor it remotely.

Ms. Meads: Have we been making headway with our leak detection equipment?

Mr. Salisbury: Yes. We uncovered a leak on Pearl Street that was routine leak detection. We are ground miking now. We are probably in the middle of the road with leakage. The system is tight; it is all due to service lines. We have to have 10% compliance by January 1, 2015. It is not looking likely.

Mr. Worthington: What portion of the line was old pipe leftover from the Air Base when you came on line with North Union Field?

Mr. Salisbury: From North Union Field out to Old Dew Line Road is all new pipe.

Agenda Item 6 – Recommitment of Delinquent Sewer Usage Surcharge Bills

Discussion:

Ms. Michaud: It is the same process as the other liens. It is a much smaller amount, somewhere around \$20,000.

Motion: *To approve the recommitment of sewer surcharge bills as recommended by staff.*

Motion: Jonathan Sinaiko

Seconded: Sacha Richter

Vote: 5 – 0 - 0

Agenda Item 7 – Sewer Flow Revisions

Discussion:

Dana Faris: I have two flow revisions, both for Café Edwige. One is correcting a clerical error that has existed since before the sewer was put in. Café Edwige had 16 patio seats that we did not have in our records. They have been on her license for years. We will correct that. The second one is that Nancy Ann Meads has also applied for an additional 12 seats that were approved through an Economic Development permit this past Monday by the Board of Selectmen. I need a vote to grant those flow revisions.

Motion: *To approve these flow revisions as recommended by staff.*

Motion: Jonathan Sinaiko

Seconded: Sacha Richter

Vote: 5 – 0 - 0

Adjournment:

Mr. Sinaiko moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM.

