



Town of Provincetown

Meeting of the

WATER & SEWER BOARD

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Grace Gouveia Bldg., 26 Alden Street, Provincetown, MA

Board Members Present: Kathy Meads (Co-chair), Mark Collins, Jean Horner, Zoe Babe and Gary Palmer

Board Members Absent: Moe Van Dereck, Kevin Kuechler,

Other attendees: DPW Staff: Jane Petterson, Sherry Prada, Director of Operations; DPW Director, Rich Waldo; Cody Salisbury, Water Superintendent,

Recording Secretary: Susan Leonard

Call to Order: Ms. Meads, acting as chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Spring 2017 Water and Sewer Bill Commitments [Board as it applies to subject mater]

Discussion:

The Water Bill commitment is for a total of \$523,605.92. Mr. Salisbury added that the combined gallonage for Truro and Provincetown is 50.7 million gallons. For the same period of 2016 it was a total of 47.98 million gallons of combined usage. Revenue is by \$30,206 over 2016. The increase is due to a combination of increased usage and leaks at some meter pits that were captured.

Motion: *To accept the Water Bill commitment as presented by staff.*

Motion: Gary Palmer

Seconded: Jean Horner

Vote: 5 – 0 - 0

The Sewer Bill commitment is in the amount of \$376,624.70. This is for the period between October 16, 2016 and April 14, 2017.

Motion: *To accept the Sewer Bill commitment as printed.*

Motion: Kathy Meads

Seconded: Zoe Babe

Vote: 4 – 0 - 0

Agenda Item 2 – 41C Elderly Water & Sewer Bill Exemptions [Full Board]

Discussion:

Motion: To approve the annual non-essential water use restrictions June 1 through October 15 2017

Motion: Gary Palmer

Seconded: Jean Horner

Vote: 5 – 0 - 0

Agenda Item 5 – Staff Updates

Discussion:

Mr. Salisbury informed the board that overall April pumpage is down by 2.5 million gallons from 2016. So far, for 2017 we are down 12.5 million gallons. Unaccounted for water is down by 15% over last year. If there is a good July and August it may be down to 7 - 8% per month. The goal is to have 15% unaccounted for water overall for 2017.

Table tent cards regarding requesting drinking water at restaurants and towel usage in guest houses have been given to the Licensing Department, the Tourism Office and the Chamber of Commerce. More can be printed if demand increases. Availability will be advertised on the website.

The Board of Selectmen has requested that all boards submit recommendations for town-wide goals by June 3rd. In the past, the unaccounted water goals have been submitted. It should be submitted as a board.

Ms. Meads suggested that this is short notice. She doesn't want to ignore the Board of Selectmen's request, but the Water & Sewer board needs to be able to discuss its goals, which may differ from those of the department. It deserves time to discuss it thoroughly, especially input from the Town of Truro. Ms. Meads pointed out that the topic of sewer expansion deserves time for discussion. The Board wants to adhere to the original intent of the sewer system, which may not be shared by other boards.

Perhaps, the Board should schedule a work session to devote to this.

It was decided to meet for a work session on May 24th at 2:00.

Ms. Meads asked to get a copy of the document that established the sewer system and the regulations regarding connecting to the sewer. It is still a "no-growth" system. The Board of Selectmen may benefit from background information of the original system design and intent.

The water main management grant is just about complete. Mr. Salisbury will be preparing a report. Leak loggers have been successful. He will provide a review in June. He has updated the water management study for 15 years integrating the grant study data.

The rate study will be finalized in the 4 – 6 weeks.

Mr. Salisbury met with CCNS Superintendent Price regarding Wells #4 and #5. He got on paper a Memorandum of Understanding the Town of Provincetown's use of these wells as an

Agenda Item 10 – Public Health Priority – 199 Bradford Street [Board as it applies to subject mater]

Discussion:

Ms. Prada informed the Board that the Board of Health has designated 199 Bradford Street to be a Public Health Failure. Originally, the owner applied for a sewer connection and signed up for the sewer in February 2009 during Phase 3 outreach. A preconstruction betterment was done at that time. The owner subsequently, asked the DPW to be excused from her legal commitment to connect to the sewer because she had obtained financing through Barnstable County for the installation of an innovative alternative White Knight system. It was determined that the upgraded system was compliant and she did not have to be on the sewer at that time. The betterment was dissolved by the Water & Sewer Board in January 2012.

Ms. Meads asked if the current system is in failure and is there room for a Title 5 on the property? Ms. Clark, Director of Health, responded that a Title 5 would be heavily varianced.

Ms. Horner stated that she looked at the property on Google Earth and that there are Title 5 systems on much smaller properties. She believes that taking into consideration the State of Limited Capacity, if you can install a Title 5 then she is not in favor of connecting to the sewer.

Atty. Stuart Rapp, introduced himself as being the Guardian Ad Litum since March 2106 of the property owner. He was appointed by the Court as receiver of the property and to address the clean up of the property, as a result of a severe hoarding situation, and to ready it for sale. The house is still condemned and the septic system has failed. In order to convey title on the property it has to be put into a condition that will satisfy Public Health regulations.

Mr. Rapp's intention is to sell the property and pay back Mass Health for the care they have provided. The balance of the proceeds will be used to pay her nursing home fees, until such time that the funds are used up and then it will revert back to Mass Health. He suggested that perhaps a penalty could be paid for the owner's backing out of the original sewer betterment in order to make things right with the Sewer Department.

Mr. Collins said that a Title 5 could be built it just has to varianced. Ms. Clark responded that this was already a heavily varianced system with an innovative alternative component. Everything about the system has failed.

Ms. Horner pointed out that the property is level and there seems to be plenty of room.

Ms. Meads stated that the Water & Sewer Board is very sympathetic. People who can put in a Title 5 system are supposed to install one because the sewer was built for people who could not accommodate a Title 5 system on their property. She feels there is a hardship, however she feels that an application for a varianced Title 5 be submitted to the Board of Health and have the Board of Health determine how many variances would or would not be acceptable. She does not want to skip this step. If the Board of Health then recommends a sewer connection, Ms. Meads would be comfortable with approving the connection.

Ms. Horner stressed that she fears there won't be enough gallons for emergencies before the sewer system is expanded.

Ms. Meads would like to see a written statement from the Board of Health stating that under its allotted Public Health gallons they are recommending this – based on the reasons such as a Title 5 would be too heavily varianced and to provide the variances.

Ms. Babe suggested that this Agenda Item be tabled.

Ms. Meads stated that they should be specific for Ms. Clark as to what is needed from the Board of Health. It would be a disservice to both Boards to say that the Water & Sewer board is overriding the Board of Health review process. We base our decision on the fact that the installation of a Title 5 is prohibitive or impossible to accomplish and meet Public Health guidelines.

Ms. Horner stated that the Carver Street property was the precedent that she caved on. They should have been made to install a wall and figure out how to get the equipment onto the property. If you throw enough money at it you can do it. Ms. Meads thinks a repair or upgrade can be done it should be.

Ms Kennedy said she would have prepared for this meeting if she knew it would be a problem. She got no indication there would be difficulties in getting it approved once the determination was made by the Board of Health. Usually, the seller goes before the Board, which is not the case with this property.

Ms. Babe asked that the Water & Sewer Board be provided with anything the Board of Health used to make their determination on.

Ms. Clark asked if she wants the Guardian to have title 5 plans drawn up for the property?

Ms. Meads said she just wants something that states that a repair or upgrade can't be done. Ms. Horner said she needs to see that a Title 5 can't be installed. It may take an engineered plan to determine this.

Ms. Clark responded that id the Water & Sewer Board is asking for something that is not in its regulations or domain then the request should be directed to the Guardian Ad Litum and have it come to your board.

Ms. Meads thinks it should be tabled and speak with Mr. Waldo and Ms. Prada. Ms. Prada responded that she and Mr. Waldo support the Board of Health's decision.

Ms. Clark offered to give the Board a spreadsheet that tracks the gallons that have been used.

Mr. Collins sees there is a conflict in the two board's priority.

Motion: *To accept the flow revisions as presented by staff*

Motion: Kathie Meads

Seconded: Zoe Babe

Vote: 4 – 0 - 0

Agenda Item 11 - Adjournment:

Ms. Meads moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 pm. It was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Leonard

Approved by _____ **on** _____, 2017