

**Water & Sewer Board
Public Hearing
February 24, 2000
Grace Gouveia Building**

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PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES

In Attendance:

Custodio J. Silva, Jr.
James Buckingham
Michael Fernandes
David Perry
Craig Wiegand, Water Superintendent
David Guertin, DPW Director
Kathie Meads, Water Department Secretary
David Atkinson, Provincetown Board of Selectmen
Sonja Soderberg
Albert Silva
Gary Palmer, Truro Board of Health
Robert J. Martin, Truro Board of Selectmen
Dana Pazolt
James Downey
Sue Harrison, Banner
Marilyn Miller, Advocate

The hearing was tape-recorded.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

Custodio J. Silva, Water & Sewer Board Chairman, opened the Public Hearing with a call for any Public Statements on the proposed water rates.

David Guertin gave a brief overview of the components of the Town's Fiscal Plan and the status of the Provincetown Water System. He emphasized that conservation would play a major role in the success of the plans for our water system's future and stated that we are dealing with a 1950's designed system and it is being stressed to the max already. A new source must be part of the future and we are looking in Provincetown first but may well find ourselves also looking at Truro and the CCNS for new supplies in the future. Improvements to the system must be made soon to ensure that our water system is there to deliver the water both our communities will need in the years ahead. David continued with an overall update of the status of our wells and the pump situation at Daley (South Hollow) Wellfield.

Gary Palmer wanted clarification that the money being raised by these new rates would not result in profits to the Town coffers but in direct improvements to the system itself. David Guertin assured him that we are an Enterprise funded system with all monies going directly into the system by law.

Craig Wiegand elaborated more on some of the system improvements we are anticipating will be made over the course of the next few years and mentioned the success of the North Truro Beach Point line switchover and the water which has been saved from that project alone.

More general discussion ensued on the water rates and conservation measures with several of those present adding their personal experiences as to what had worked for them in their businesses. Many helpful suggestions were taken into consideration by the Board for future implementation. Sonja Soderberg offered to bring in a water conservation card she has with a message about conserving towel usage and Al Silva offered to help with disbursing information to the

North Truro Beach Point community if the Department publishes tips in the future.

David Atkinson suggested a decal in the shape of a water drop be mailed with the water bills and it could be attached to bathroom mirrors as a reminder to save water.

Michael Fernandes summed up what he had heard this evening into three distinct goals:

1. To create a system that determines and measures per unit and per seat appropriate use, and taxes for overuse.
2. To thoroughly investigate and educate about ways to conserve.
3. To continually investigate new ways to credit individual and businesses for their efforts in conservation.

Bob Martin excused himself to attend a budget meeting in Truro.

Custodio Silva suggested getting the Visitors' Service Board involved with this type of conservation project and getting the word out to the business community.

James Buckingham spoke for the Board in thanking everyone for their attendance and after some further discussion on the proposed rate he **moved** that the Board adopt the rates as proposed and advertised. David Perry seconded the **motion**. Custodio Silva offered some further discussion in remarking that he was happy to see that the seniors and low income, low users on the system would not see a rate increase under this proposal. Vote in favor of recommending these rates to the Selectmen for adoption 4-0.

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:04 p.m.