

Minutes of the Water & Sewer Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday, June 15, 1999

At the Grace Gouveia Building, 26 Alden Street, Provincetown

The following minutes are available on-line as a service and are not the official record due to changes in formatting for the Internet. The minutes may have attachments that are not included here in this format. The official, complete paper copy can be viewed during regular office hours, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of the Town Clerk, 260 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657.

In Attendance:

Custodio J. Silva, Jr. Chairman

Giovanni (John) Cicero

David Perry

Craig Wiegand, Water Superintendent

Kathie Meads, Water Secretary

David Guertin, DPW Director (1:20 p.m.) Meeting was tape-recorded

Owner 8 Highland Road, North Truro. John Reis

PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

Custodio Silva called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and asked for public statements. There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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The minutes of the June 1, 1999 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

A **motion** to approve the minutes was made by David Perry and seconded by John Cicero. Vote in favor of approving minutes 3-0.

UPDATE FROM THE WATER SUPERINTENDENT:

Craig Wiegand, Water Superintendent updated the Board on the status of the water taps project on Shore Road in North Truro. The taps have been going in at the rate of 2 or 3 per week. The Truro Police have been charging us for police details on Shore Road. This has been charged at the rate of \$300 - \$400 per day. We do not have the funds to pay this unforeseen expense. Craig has met with Bud Breault, the Truro Town Administrator, regarding these charges. His response has been that this is a union matter. Craig has also addressed the matter with Keith Bergman and David Guertin. Craig does not wish to stop the project, but the Water Department does not have the funds to pay these charges. If a resolution cannot be found for this situation, the project will have to cease.

John Cicero commented that as a result of the negotiations we had with the Town of Truro last winter, they were supposed to cooperate with us on this project and assist us wherever possible. These are Truro customers after all and the fees for tapping are being waived. We are also supplying all the materials. Truro should be willing to throw in the police details when they are needed.

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David Perry asked if we could get away without using a police detail or if we could just send the bill back to Truro.

Craig responded that he has tried to do the project without a police detail but has been told that we will have to at least call the police. If they have a person available for the detail, we will have to use them. Craig would prefer to get this settled in the near future so we know where the status of this project lies.

Custodio pointed out that since we are Enterprise funded, Truro will probably argue that it is a customer shared cost to be absorbed by the users.

Craig commented that although that is true, we are supplying all the materials and not charging any tapping fees as we would be doing for all customers. Craig continued that it is for the overall good of the system to decommission this water main; however, he needs guidance on how to recoup these additional costs from Truro.

David Perry asked how many days it will take to complete this task?

Craig answered that it would take a total of about 30 days to complete. If we are charged \$400 per day for 30 days, we would incur costs of \$12,000 in addition to the \$15,000 we have already earmarked for materials and costs for this project which is coming out of the newly released enterprise reserve funds.

Custodio asked how we could get by the user issue?

Craig offered that we could institute the \$500 (1 inch) and \$650 (2 inch) and give them 90 days to switch over off the old line. They could either pay the tapping fee or the Truro Police Detail fee of \$400.

Custodio said this will be tough.

John Cicero added that this was not considered in the planning and as a businessman, when a plan does not work out we make an adjustment. We should go to Truro and explain that now that we have this problem we need to work together to resolve it in the best interest of all the parties involved and for the good of the system.

Craig responded that he has had that meeting with Bud Breault already and that his response was that it was a police union matter and not much that he could do about it.

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Custodio suggested that a letter from the Water & Sewer Board was perhaps in order.

John Cicero made a **motion** to write a letter to the Truro Town Administrator which would be copied to the Truro Board of Selectmen, Gary Palmer, Truro Board of Health, Keith Bergman and the Provincetown Board of Selectmen requesting the Town of Truro's assistance in the resolution of this police detail issue. David Perry seconded the motion. Vote in favor of sending the letter as described in the motion 3-0.

David Guertin DPW Director joined the meeting as was noted by Chairman Custodio Silva.

Craig informed the Board that there was a problem with the South Hollow wells at the Paul Daley Wellfield had been sucking air and he has had the pump repair crew down to fix the parco valve and remedy the situation. This has been repaired.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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Custodio showed the Board that he had received a letter (attached) from the condo association at Highland Acres in North Truro asking to be abated for the 1998 bill since they did not come on the system until November 1998. Custodio asked that the Board get a copy of the letter and they could review it at the next meeting.

Custodio added however, for the record, that the Water Department staff had followed the procedure as approved by the Water & Sewer Board for the handling of the abatements and, as the policy has been enforced in the past, they have followed the policy with denying the abatement applications.

Craig added that they were on the system as of November 1998 and water was available for their use at that time.

John Cicero asked if we had to meet with them.

Custodio responded that they do have the right to appeal any decision made by the Water Department to the Water & Sewer Board after they have followed the proper procedure.

ABATEMENT REVIEW:

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Kathie presented the Board with a copy of the report on abatements which she had prepared for Ken Learned, Director of Municipal Finance (attached). The Board reviewed the report and Kathie informed them that, at this date, the amount of water abated was already at \$75,000. One

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single abatement was for \$31,000. This is what put our original projection of about \$40-42,000 way under the mark.

The Board once again expressed their desire to review the entire abatement process in the fall and take whatever action is necessary to curtail the loss to the Department with excessive water abatements every year. This will be addressed in the fall.

David Guertin addressed the Board on the abatement process and the alleged theft of water that took place on Beach Point recently.

Craig let the Board know that he would be meeting with the Truro Police Chief today to discuss this situation.

David Guertin updated the Board on the status of the EIS for the wells at the former NTAFB and the recent sanitation survey by DEP which had been copied to the Board.

WHALEWATCH DRIVE NORTH TRURO:

A letter recently received from an attorney regarding the Whalewatch Drive situation in North Truro was briefly discussed.

Custodio added that as far as he was concerned, no applications had been received by the Water & Sewer Board as yet and therefore, was not a matter of discussion by this Board. This is a Truro matter as it stands right now.

David Guertin announced that it will probably come up in discussion at the joint meeting of the Provincetown and Truro Boards of Selectmen to be held on June 22, 1999 in Truro at the Police facility.

Craig invited any members of the Water & Sewer Board who wish to attend to do so.

RELEASE OF ENTERPRISE FUNDS:

Craig asked the Board to approve his request to spend:

\$35,000 toward the EIS study for the AFB wells and:

\$ 6,000 for the parco valve repair at the Daley Wellfield

This request of \$41,000 will leave a balance of \$457.50 in article 15 of the April 1999 STM.

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David Perry made the **motion** to approve the two expenditures. John Cicero seconded the motion. Vote in favor to spend the \$41,000 3-0.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board decided not to meet again until September 1999 unless there was an emergency situation.

Motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by David Perry seconded by John Cicero. Vote in favor of adjournment 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m..