

Harwich Water Department  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
Meeting on Tuesday, March 17th, 2015

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chair Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Donald Bates, Town Administrator Chris Clark, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Sr. Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Secretary Tracey Alves

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Chairman Thompson entertained a motion to adopt the Minutes from the meeting of March 3rd, 2015. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to approve this motion with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

The building inspector has signed off on the occupancy permit for the Well 10 treatment plant and the plant is almost ready to go on-line.

After a winter filled with heavy snowfall and snow storms there were three hydrants in town that sustained damage. The department is still awaiting reimbursement from FEMA.

Comptroller Cummings is working on the negotiation calculations figure to present to NSTAR for the period of time when the electric meter out at one of the pump stations was not working.

Treatment operator Neil Salzillo has prepared a price quote on how much it would cost to switch back to treating the water with potassium hydroxide. More research will be done to obtain a figure on the number of space heaters that are being used out at the pump stations.

The deadline was on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the internal posting for the position of Superintendent of Water and Wastewater. Internal interviews will be held on Tuesday morning March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the Town Hall Library.

Town Administrator Clark commented regarding the tight timeline pertaining to the budget, plant, unpaid bills and truck articles and suggested that these be touched upon in the presentation at town meeting to try to get votes on them.

The details for the truck article for the trade-in needs to be reviewed prior to March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The warrant is available now and Comptroller Cummings will give copies of everything to the Town Administrator to get the motions right when at the Finance/Budget meeting.

Spring billing just took place. Consumption has gone up quite a bit this billing cycle 2015 compared to 2014.

The water department has been working diligently changing out old meters and replacing them with new ones. An estimated 20% still need to be changed out.

Discussion began regarding the department's indirect charges and the topic of town property and casualty insurance. Chair Thompson was curious as to how the cost of insurance is determined and he questioned how much the indirects will be impacted when the new Well 10 is insured? The property will be listed on the statement of values and the

indirects will be impacted. Chair Thompson commented that this will be an increase that was not budgeted for.

Chair Thompson made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Vice Chair Gonsalves approved with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

The Board discussed a few of the areas in which there will be water rate/fee increases. The base rate will increase by five dollars and the consumption tiers will increase by 6%.

The Board began conversation on the topic of backflow and how Chatham water takes on the responsibility of monitoring all backflow devices within their town. Currently, the Harwich Water Department contracts backflow work out to a company called Water Safety Services.

The topic of Service Tight Protection Plan arose. The question as to whether the charge of \$68 a year was enough or if that price should increase in the future?

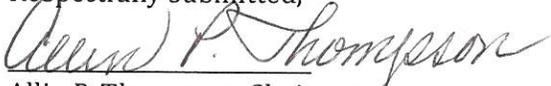
Chair Thompson made a motion to approve the water rates/fees. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to approve with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

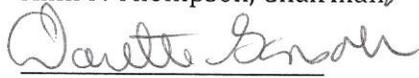
A billing update was given by Sr. Billing Administrator Marsh. The bills have been released. There were a total of around 1,400 bills that needed to be estimated this cycle due to the deep snow this year.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, March 31st, 2015.

Chairman Thompson motioned to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. with a second from Vice Chair Gonsalves; 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

  
Allin P. Thompson, Chairman

  
Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chair

  
Donald T. Bates, Clerk

  
Sandra Gummings, Comptroller

  
Tracey Alves, Board Secretary