

Harwich Water Department
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
Meeting held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2014 at 8:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Clerk Donald Bates, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Selectman Larry Ballantine, Senior 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 January 7th, 2014. Clerk Bates moved to adopt the minutes. Chairman Thompson seconded. 2-0-0

The cell phone company Verizon had proposed building a cell tower on Spruce Road but the parcel of land that they were interested in building on is deemed conservation land. Therefore, this proposed project will not be taking place. Town engineers are doing their research to see if there are any other parcels of land available to build on.

The foundation for Well 10 is poured and complete. The remainder of the contract is going out to bid the second to last week in January, 2014. Once awarded, the construction of the building will begin. The project is currently running a bit ahead of schedule.

Superintendent Wiegand has not yet met with Link, the Director of the Highway Department to discuss charging NSTAR and National Grid for mark-outs. This topic will be readdressed after they have had a chance to meet.

The Water Department met with the Town Administrator for a budget review. They met also with the Town Treasurer. When meeting with the Town Treasurer the Water Department's debit card was discussed. The auditors feel that it is too much of a risk for the Water Department to have access to a debit card. The debit card will be taken away at the end of the month. The use of the debit card was helpful in saving money when ordering supplies and it also allowed the Department to utilize the services of various companies who do not accept month to month payment terms. Many changes will be taking place to account for the loss of the debit card.

The Pleasant Bay Alliance has requested to have inserts put into the spring water bills. They have also agreed to take on any costs that this may incur. Chairman Thompson agreed to allow inserts to be added into the spring bills.

Comptroller Cummings provided the Board with a Second Quarter Budget Update.

Chairman Thompson motioned to approve the Second Quarter Budget Internal Adjustments for the fiscal year 2014. Clerk Bates seconded. 2-0-0

Superintendent Wiegand spoke of a letter that was sent to the Town Treasurer from Bond Counsel regarding financial information that they were requesting for the Well 10 project. This information was not yet available because no bid had been ordered at the time. Superintendent Wiegand drafted a letter to the Town Treasurer explaining that when the information requested becomes available it can be sent over.

The Ford F-550 truck is still at Municipal Headquarters. The booms and outriggers are on and a new generator is currently being installed.

During the last snowfall several Water Department trucks were sent out to plow. One of the trucks, the Peterbilt six wheel, had an engine switch that needed to be fixed so it was sent off to be repaired for a couple of days. It has since been fixed and is in good working order.

There has been no word in regards to news about the Union contracts moving forward, meanwhile the new contracts will be coming out soon.

The Department of Environmental Protection authorized the Water Department to install new technology that has been introduced into the design of Well 10. The technology is supposed to reduce the amount of chemicals needed to treat the water by up to twenty five percent. The idea behind this new technology is that a set of tubes will mix a small amount of KOH along with a little chlorine to pick up the flock in iron. The Harwich Water Department will be the first in the State of Massachusetts to use this new technology.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association conference is scheduled for this upcoming weekend for all those who will be attending.

The D.E.P. has made a change to its requirements regarding the distribution of the Consumer Confidence Report. The requirements now state that a paper copy no longer needs to be sent out to the public via mail as long as a direct link to the information on-line is listed on the water bill. The Water Department will still be distributing the information around town and a notice will still be shown on television and in the paper. The Consumer Confidence Report will be easily accessible, it will just not be mailed. This method will help save money and reduce waste.


A gentleman named Mr. Rossetti was scheduled to appear in front of the Board to discuss his concern regarding dog scat at Thompson's Field. Mr. Rossetti never appeared to discuss his concerns.


The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th, 2014.

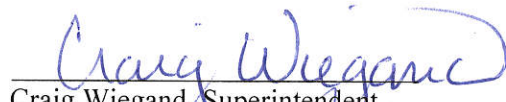
Chairman Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m. Clerk Bates seconded. 2-0-0


Respectfully Submitted,


Allin P. Thompson, Chairman


Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chairman


Donald T. Bates, Clerk


Craig Wiegand, Superintendent


Tracey Alves, Secretary