

Harwich Water Department  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
Meeting on February 18th, 2014

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chairman Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Donald Bates, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Secretary Tracey Alves, Senior Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Selectman Larry Ballantine, Polaris Consultant Paul Costello

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

The minutes from the previous meeting held on January 21st, 2014 were approved with a motion by Vice Chairman Gonsalves and seconded by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0.

Harwich resident Charlie McLaughlin appeared in front of the Board to discuss his concern regarding the Water Department attempting to remove the fire hydrant from Tucker's Way. The Department had planned to cap and remove the hydrant until further notice as it is not connected to town water. The hydrant was installed years ago as a requirement under the Town by-law that states that any new sub-division built which is not within 500 ft. of a hydrant needs to have an infrastructure for water put in place in case there is ever an interest in expanding town water to the area. Mr. McLaughlin stopped the Water Department from removing the hydrant and stated that Tucker's Way is private and that the hydrant is not to be removed until a resolution is obtained. Superintendent Wiegand spoke to Fire Chief Clark regarding the issue and the Fire Chief felt that for safety reasons it would be best to cap and remove any and all fire hydrants in town that are not connected to town water. Going forward the Town by-law may need to be reviewed and altered so that when a sub-division falls under these guidelines the fittings for a hydrant will be placed but the actual hydrant itself will not be installed until the area is connected to town water. This issue will be further discussed and readdressed at the next meeting.

Superintendent Wiegand apprised the Board that the bid prices for Well 10 came in higher than expected. The estimated cost of the project was anticipated to be around \$1.6 million dollars. This assumption was based on a preliminary bid estimate from a contractor as well as experience with the construction of the Bruce Cahoon building. After viewing the bid results, the total cost is now estimated to be around \$2.2 million dollars. Polaris Consultant Paul Costello spoke to the Board about how the SRF funding project approval certificate could be amended to borrow the already approved amount of \$1.96 million dollars vs. the authorized amount of \$1.3 million dollars of which is anticipated to yield a 20% principal forgiveness. This scenario would cover most of the excess difference. Superintendent Wiegand then stated that a special article will need to be asked for at Town Meeting to make up for the remaining amount as needed. Chairman Thompson questioned if there was enough revenue for this project. Superintendent Wiegand stated that currently the revenues are being made. Comptroller Cummings commented that the first payment is expected to be made in FY16.

The Rehabilitation of the Lothrop Tank bids came in higher than expected as well. There were two bids received with the low bid coming in at \$2.1 million dollars. The estimated cost for this project was expected to be around \$1.6 million dollars. Due to the high cost of rehabilitation, alternative options may need to be explored such as focusing on rehabilitating the tank in phases by choosing to work on either the interior or exterior first or even considering the possibility of building a new tank all together. Superintendent Wiegand has proposed meeting with Haley & Ward to discuss the impacts and expectations of rehabilitating the old tank vs. investing in a new water tank. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

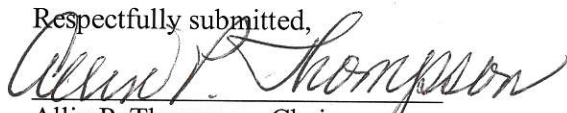
SAI Communications representative spoke to Superintendent Wiegand regarding AT&T and their interest in leasing space on top of one of the water tanks in Harwich. It turns out that currently there is no space available for lease on the Route 39 and Oak Street tanks as both tanks are at their maximum limit for vendors. Also, the only way any space will become available is if any of the current vendors choose to discontinue to lease space and decide to remove their equipment. At this point only would the Town look at offering that particular space to a new vendor. SAI Communications representative requested that the Board write a letter stating just this so he could forward it to AT&T. The Board agreed to write a letter.


The fees and charges used by the Water Department were addressed. Over the next few weeks many of the fees and charges will be reviewed and compared to the fees and charges that other Cape towns are using. These comparisons may result in some adjustments being made in the near future.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014.


The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. with a motion by Chairman Thompson and a second by Vice Chairman Gonsalves; 3-0-0.

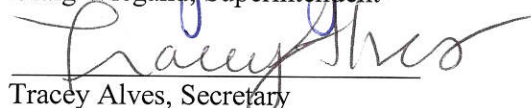
Respectfully submitted,

  
Allin P. Thompson, Chairman

  
Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chairman

  
Donald T. Bates, Clerk

  
Craig Wiegand, Superintendent

  
Tracey Alves, Secretary